

# DC Gazette

VOL XIII NR 10

DECEMBER 1982

Whole Number 225

## HIGH-SPEED ECONOMICS



## GETTING HOUSING BUILT



## THE CITY: THE BUDGET BOWL





## Election effluvia

Several issues ago, I suggested that the city shorten the length of time one can remain on the voter rolls without voting. At present, it is four years. If the limit was two years, it would automatically clear away a lot of the dead wood clogging up voter registration. Now the chair of the DC Board of Elections, Al Beveridge, has recommended an even shorter period just to get the rolls straightened out. Under his proposal, anyone who voted in either of last fall's elections would remain registered. Those who were registered but who did not vote could contact the elections board in order to remain registered. It estimated that the plan would reduce the number of registered voters from 370,000 to 125,000.

Beveridge is on the right track, but the eligible list should probably include those who voted last year as well. William Spaulding, the city council's perennial election hearing-holder, says the plan has "some merit." His committee will probably consider it in January.

Meanwhile, Beveridge also made a lousy recommendation, namely that school board elections and ANC elections be combined with city council and mayoral elections. This proposal should be strongly opposed as it defeats the non-partisan nature of these elections by mixing them up with political contests.

Beveridge also recommended postponing the next ANC election to 1984 because new ANC boundaries, based on the 1980 census, have not yet been drawn. This task should have progressed along at a good clip by now but, naturally, it hasn't. I suggested to one mayoral adviser that the government hire a high school student with an Apple II and a command of graphics software to do the job the city is finding so difficult.

One fascinating problem contributing to the delay is the fact that the 1980 census will result in the loss of over ten percent of the single member districts. This means some forty locales where you could have rip-roaring political furors.

Last month was the fiftieth anniversary of Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. One of the original designers of the road, Wilbur Stimson, 86, is still living in the area and drives the parkway monthly. Stimson designed the world's first parkway in Westchester County after World War I.

I have always considered these parkways (similar ones include the one outside of Williamsburg and in Connecticut) among the highest achievements of highway builders. The attention to blending nature with transit needs, exemplified by the grass shoulders, is in marked contrast to the brutally utilitarian nature of many modern freeways, which make you almost wish the billboards were back again.

## Who's a minority?

The squabble over who is a minority contractor is a wonderful example



SAM SMITH

of one-factor analysis. If you throw in a second factor, like financial ability or size, it becomes a lot simpler. But, of course, black politicians don't want to do that because it would disqualify from special status many black big businessmen who are key campaign contributors and supporters. There is little doubt that almost any Vietnamese Seven-Eleven manager needs more help than Ted Hagens, but to recognize the fact would be to upset the political apple-cart, so the mayor and city council run around in definitional circles that defy logic and avoid the real issue. Not very impressive, folks.

For what it's worth, Esquire magazine thinks the best places to drink in DC are F. Scott's, Tuna Inn, Charlie's, the Tavern Inn and the Garden Terrace in the Four Seasons Hotel.

## High roller

Charlie McDowell has set some sort of record for downtown pedestrianism. On 15 occasions, extending over more than two weeks, the light at 13th & F NW changed to "Walk" just as he approached. But then Charlie violated the rule laid down by generations of baseball fans watching a no-hitter develop: don't talk about it.

Indifferent to the consequences, Charlie wrote a column in which he stated that he was "on a roll." He pointed out that "each time a pedestrian approaches that light, the odds against him or her are about 6-to-1 in terms of the time allocated to each phase of the light. To hit the brief 'Walk' light 15 consecutive times is to defy odds in the outer reaches of the astronomical."

And of course, as his column was being published, his luck ran out.

Sad to report, the city council last month began consideration of an increase in the general usury ceiling from 15% to 21%. The bill in question would also allow second mortgages to carry as much as 24% interest.

It is bizarre, to say the least, to find a city council that considers itself politically progressive docilely thinking about a 24% interest rate. And even more so at a time when national rates are coming down.

## Rhodes Tavern

The Save Historic Rhodes Tavern Committee has collected the 14,671 signatures it needs to qualify the matter for the ballot next year. It's going to go on collecting signatures until the deadline of February 3 just to be on the safe side.

Metro has, in recent years, been seriously afflicted with the endemic disease of our technological era — namely an inability to recover from failure. When there was a big power plant fire in the 19th century, DC transit officials rounded up horses, carpenters and blacksmiths overnight, refitted the electric trolleys to be horse-drawn and were running trips with three-minute headways the next morning. Metro has been designed on the assumption that everything is going to work right, an assumption with often lamentable results. One of the few hopeful aspects of the era of economic entropy that we seem to be entering is that even public officials are thinking more about this assumption. A case in point is Metro's decision to refit about 150 of its newest buses with windows that will open in case the air conditioning breaks down. This shouldn't be news, but rather just common sense, but by today's standards it represents at least an important new thrust and perhaps even a bold initiative.

One of the arguments opponents of mandatory sentencing used, to no avail, is that it wouldn't work. Did DC voters not agree or simply not care? Well, a 1979 study in Michigan suggests maybe the latter was the case. There it was found that 90% of the citizens supported mandatory sentencing and 65 percent said they would favor it even if they knew such laws did not help to deter crime.

With the District government lagging behind on the issue of shelters for the homeless this winter, the Community for Creative Non-Violence is planning a campaign of direct ac-

(Please turn to page 31)

### THE DC GAZETTE

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Deadline for editorial and advertising matter: 15th of the month.

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# SPEED

## Jonathan Rowe

What was it about that British naval flotilla chugging its way across the Atlantic to those remote islands off Argentina?

I'll confess. Despite my reservations about the venture, despite the undertones of Kipling and empire, I still saw, at the prow of those ships, Churchill's glower, his stogie and bulldog jaw, jutting their determined way through storm and brine in service of honor and the Queen.

It was almost disarming in spite of itself, this belated little errand of empire. But there was more at work here, I think, than mere nostalgia.

I remember listening to the daily accounts on National Public Radio, the behind-the-scenes reports, the positions at sea. There was something out-of-time about it all, a story made for radio, for the human voice, breaking slowly, building to a dramatic crest, a prospect moving deliberately towards an event.

Television could have added nothing. That was a clue.

In an age of instant history, of imminent destruction, there was something human, almost reassuring, about the pace of this endeavor. Those chugging ships could go only so fast. There was a sense of natural barrier between the threat and the event. Barrier meant time, for thought and negotiation, for reason to intervene.

And time meant hope that these might occur.

Once the world imposed such barriers upon us. Once we could work our will only so fast. We had time in the course of things. But we have assaulted the old barriers as enemies, have enlisted our ingenuity to tear them down. There is little left in nature to buffer us against ourselves.

A finger on a button can launch the destruction of us all, beyond recall. The lid is off. We are on our own.

The only buffers we have left are the ones we ourselves create. Who does not feel that we have thrust upon ourselves a task for which we are not ready?

A mission of invasion that respected the old barriers, that left time for negotiation and reprieve, seemed civil and almost precious, questionable though that invasion may have been.

The old barriers are falling in other realms of our experience as well. This, I think, is why the Falkland Islands venture was so suggestive.

Take economics. Specifically, take money.

Once money moved through our economy the way the British flotilla crossed the Atlantic, deliberately and at human pace. If you had some extra cash, you took it to your savings bank. When you had saved the requisite amount, you bought a car, or perhaps a house. After that, perhaps you bought some stocks or bonds.

You saved before you spent. There was a sort of orderly progression. It could move only so fast.

Professional investors could hasten things a little. But even they were restrained by the limits of their information, and by the technology by which they could put this information to use. Telephone wires and ticker tapes, pen-and-ledger accounting, were like the cruisers crossing the Atlantic. They could move only so fast.

There were also legal barriers between the different kinds of investments, barriers that slowed any shifts from one to another. Savings accounts and checking accounts, credit cards and mutual funds, were separate and distinct. It took time to move your money from one to another. Money thus tended to stay where it was.

Such barriers to our acquisitiveness are going the way of the old barriers that once kept our warring aggressions within bounds.

We have computers that tell us where we can get the highest return, as quickly as we can switch the

"on" button. Computer networks send money blipping from one bank account to another, from one investment or security to another, faster than it used to take to look up your broker's number in the telephone directory.

The old distinctions between the different kinds of investments are crumbling as well. Savings accounts and checking accounts, credit cards and stocks, are being run through the osterizer and are coming out one pulpy mass. The institutional arrangements that tended to keep money in this part of the economy or that, are no more.

The new technology, moreover, is infecting us all with its fever pace. Once we were as low key as the accountant at the local bank. We kept our dollars in a passbook account, not overly concerned that some sharpie someplace might be able to get us a fraction of a percentage point more.

I remember the films in grade school that showed us how a hundred dollars in a savings account, growing yearly at 3%, would make us millionaires before we were through. It looked like a good deal to me. I was astonished, in fact, that getting rich could be so easy. To this day I wince at opportunities lost when I present my passbook to make a withdrawal, even when I am going to put that money into something that yields more.

Now, however, the sharpies are everywhere. I know people who compute their daily returns on their pocket calculators, and shift their funds accordingly. The account options at the local savings bank reads like the menu at a Chinese restaurant. It's becoming a madcap brawl for the maximum return.

As consumers as well as investors, the old tethers no longer hold us. Our grandparents saved before they spent. We spend before we have. We flash credit cards like banshees. We strip the future to feed the present.

We are a clamoring throng at the gates of plenty. But from whence will this plenty arise?

That is the problem. The speed and clamor are such that our economy is becoming unhinged from the ends that a human economy is supposed to serve. The distance grows greater and greater between gain, and the making and selling of useful things that is supposed to provide the basis of gain. In nothing do we see this more than in the behavior of our largest corporations.

At one time, corporations existed to make something. DuPont made chemicals. U.S. Steel made steel. Standard produced oil. The Pennsylvania and New York Central ran railroads. The individuals who ran these companies knew the product. The sold it at a profit, and used the profit to expand the business, build bigger factories, design better products.

There was greed and abuse aplenty. But at least these enterprises revolved around a center which was the serving of a life need.

That was yesterday. Today, our major corporations are flying off into the far reaches of abstract acquisitory space.

The individuals who run these companies are financiers, not industrialists. They know money, not products. They are the William Agees and Jim Lings, not the Thomas Edisons and Henry Fords.

These new MBA whiz-bangers view their companies the way bankers do, as agglomerations of assets, not as organizations for making and selling. Their first question is not how to make a better car or light bulb, but how to get a larger return on the value of those assets. They set yearly growth targets, fifteen percent or more, and then do whatever they must to meet them, regardless of the consequences for the rest of us.

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They ravage the economic landscape like beasts of prey. Factories or Eurodollars, stock certificates or steel, it's all the same to them. The symbols of value, the numbers, become more important than the things for which those numbers stand.

To be sure, it is not just acquisitiveness and financial sophistication that are pushing things in this direction. There is, in addition, our refusal to support a spread of wealth that would enable the people of the world to buy what our factories could make. On top of that we continue to gear our production to personal consumption, even though we are almost sated, and even though our real needs, increasingly, concern what we have in common, not what we consume apart.

There are these reasons and more. But the result is the same. Acquisitiveness becomes unhinged from the old restraints, spins out further and further from the orbit of human life needs.

Even in the realm of production, the roles have been reversed. No longer do we produce to fill our needs. Instead, we inflate our sense of need so that we will consume more production. Consumption now serves production, all in a desperate effort to maintain the "growth" that our economic preconceptions require.

Where is it going? Do we have the concepts, the word pictures, even to begin to understand where it is going?

One image that comes to mind is a nuclear reaction. This, as I understand it, is a system in which basic particles are set flying against each other at a faster and faster pace. Instability unleashes the raw energy at the center.

Is that what is happening in our economy? Have we set loose, in the economic realm, an analogue to

what we have set loose in the military realm? Are the possible consequences equally ominous?

Another image that comes to mind is that of a car careening along a twisting mountain road. It was hard enough to control the car when it was going twenty. Now it's pushing fifty, the brakes are coming, and we are veering closer and closer to the cliff.

I'm not sure how we are to understand what is happening to our economy. It might be through one of these images, it might be through another. What concerns me most is that the conventional economists don't even seem to realize that our economic problems are different from what they have always been, that there is a fundamental error in the way we think about our economy.

The economists still try to explain this explosive twentieth-century world through the staid 18th century metaphor of a "marketplace." They continue to comfort us with the notion that there are self-correcting "laws" of supply and demand that will set everything aright if we just let them operate.

The velocity of transaction and change, the breakdown of the barriers of law and technology that once kept our acquisitiveness in check, the psychology of demand and the unhinging of acquisition from the supplying of life needs—none of this is in their textbooks and hence none of it exists.

Thus the economists continue to wrangle over the conventional levers of economic control: the supply of money, the level of government taxes and spending, and the like. Adjust these correctly, they say, and we have nothing more to worry about. The "invisible hand" will do the rest.

I submit that these economists are trying to understand a nuclear reaction with Newtonian mechanics, and are trying to control the reaction with fireplace irons.

The rest of us sense, I think, that something is amiss. We sense a great gap between the way we are told to think about our world, and the way the world actually is. But we are conditioned to defer to the experts, and the experts are not coming through.

"Dismay is exactly where we have to start," an acquaintance said to me recently. Disillusion helps as well. It's high-stakes business, this rending of the veil. It hurts. But it isn't bad.

In fact, it was inevitable.

We are not going to dig holes and bury our computer know-how, any more than we can bury our knowledge of the atom. To be honest, a part of me would like to do both. But I don't think it is going to happen.

The only alternative is to use what we know with wisdom and restraint, to employ it in the service of stability and cohesion instead of frantic acquisition and disintegration and destruction.

This will not happen by itself. No "invisible hand" will do it for us. We will have to choose to slow down, to reclaim control. We will have to choose to choose. The hand is us.

Was it this need, this hope, that the Falkland Islands venture touched, harkening as it did to an earlier day when oceans imposed the deliberation and control that we now must impose upon ourselves?

We don't have to say Britain was "right" to learn from the respite those chugging ships provided. It was the sort of prolongation that nature imposes less and less, but which we seem to need more and more. Can we choose to have it? Will we be so wise?

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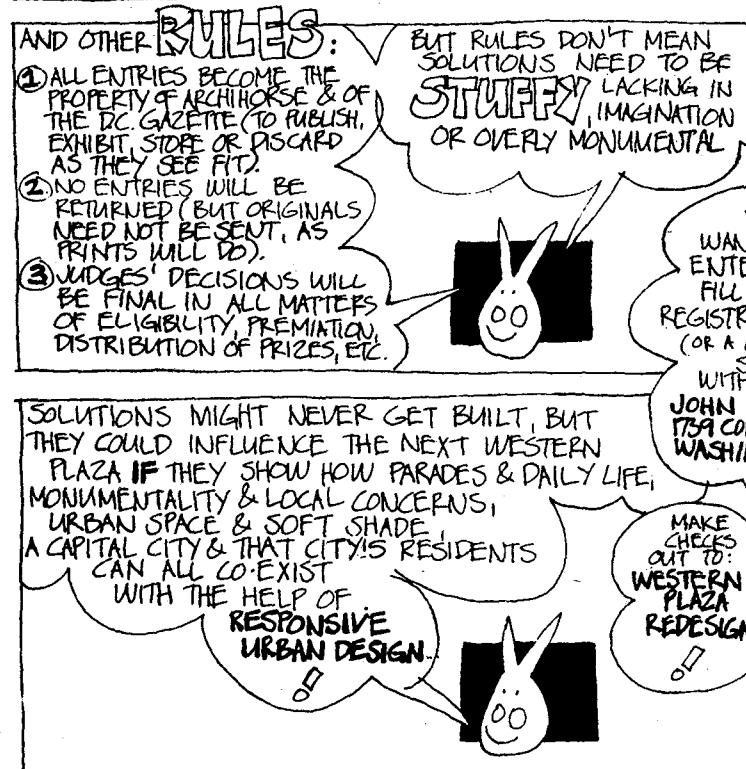
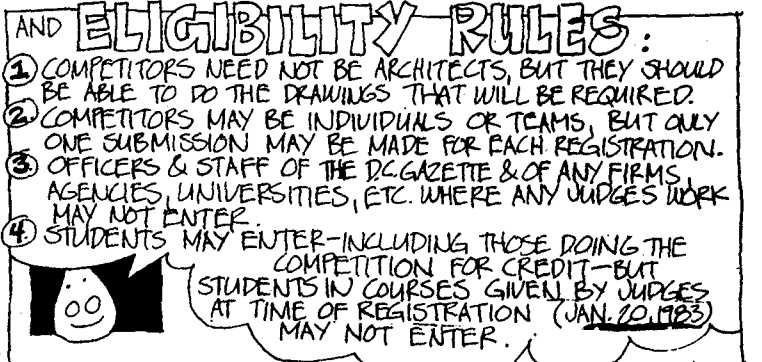
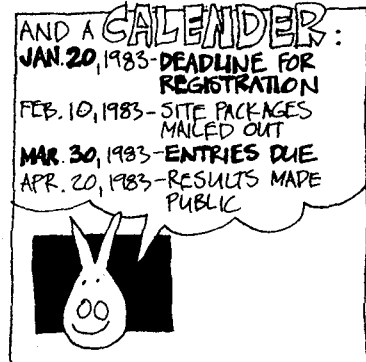
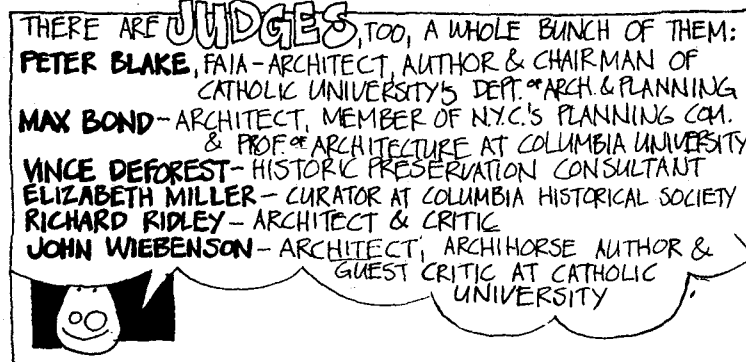
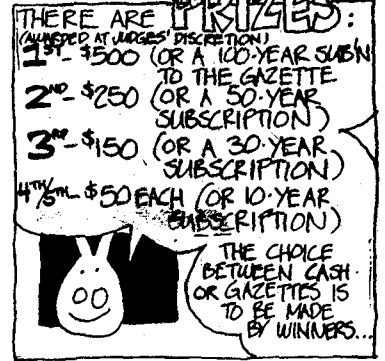
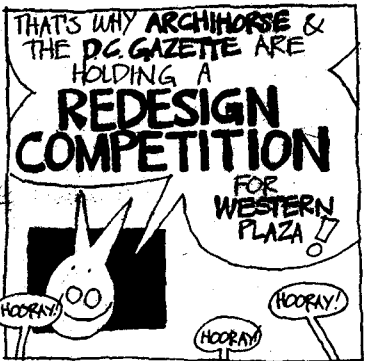
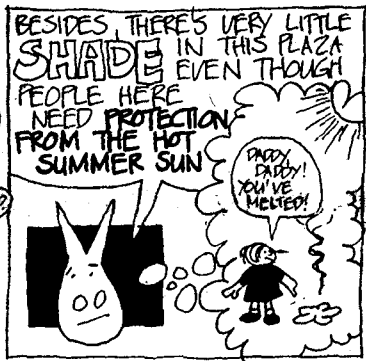
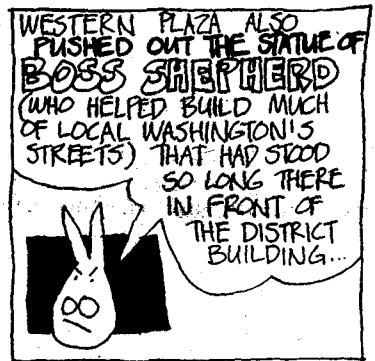
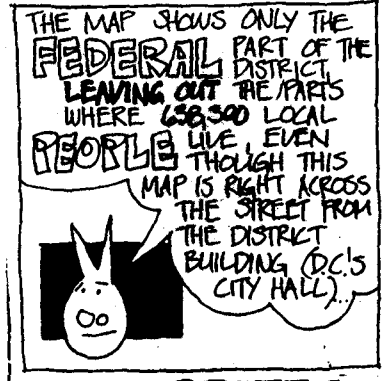
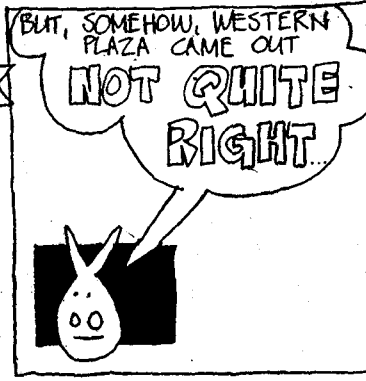
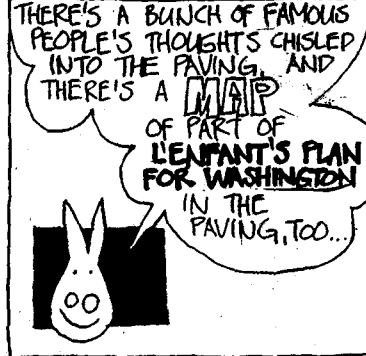
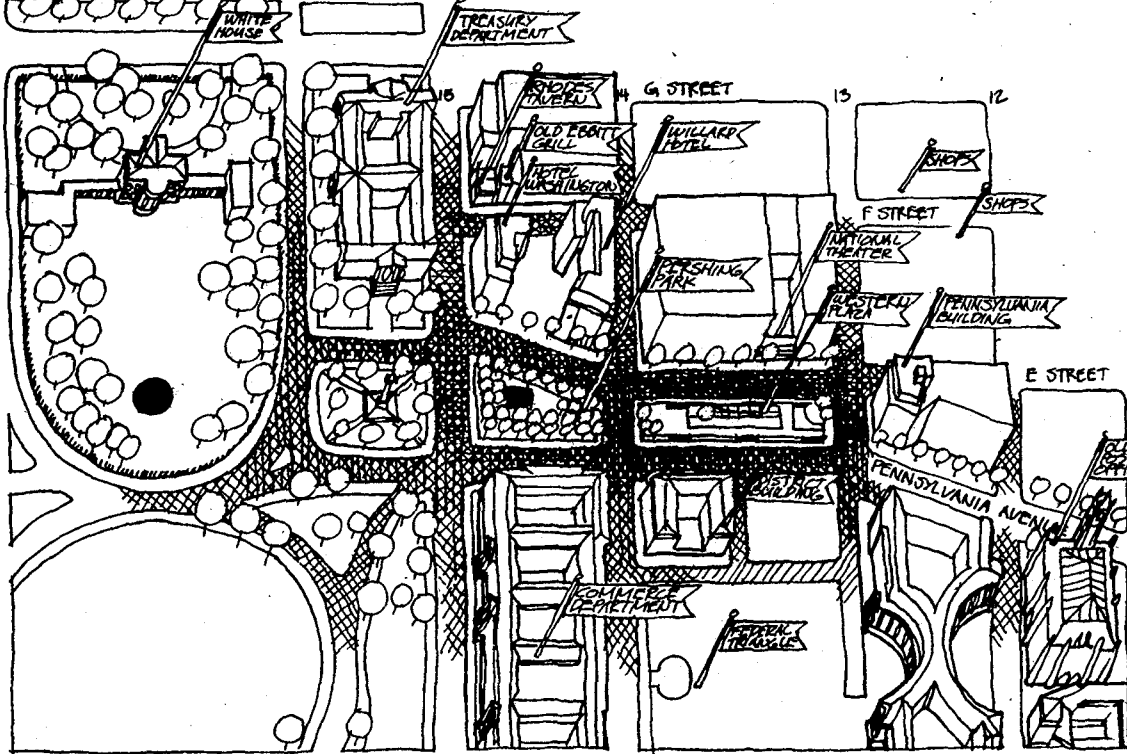
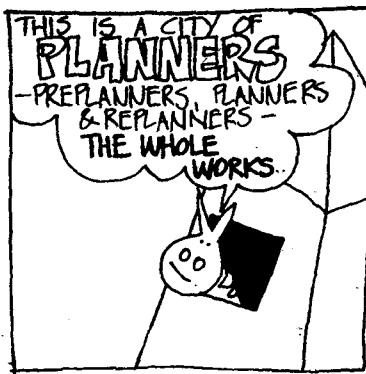
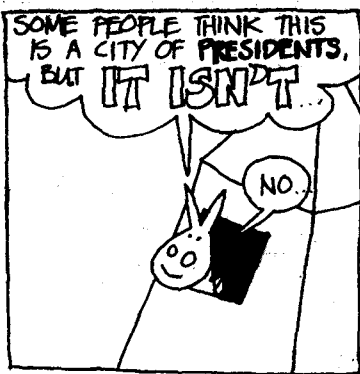
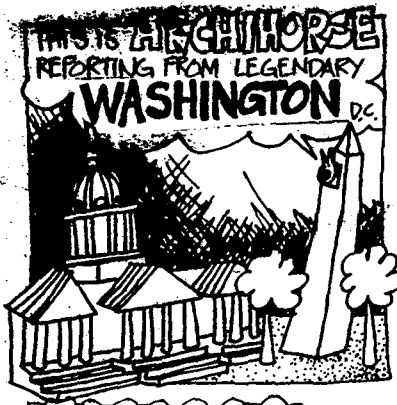
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# PROGRESSIVE DIGEST

## Environment

President Reagan has signed the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1982 reauthorizing the Act through 1985. The president signed the bill without a statement or fanfare.

The act generally has been improved by the reauthorization. The procedures by which species are listed as endangered and the process have been simplified and strict time lines for listing decisions have been imposed. The signed bill and the conference report that accompanies it stress that listing is to be based solely on biological and trade data.

Other amendments modify the procedures for determining critical habitats, encourage the development of recovery plans for species threatened by human activities, shorten and simplify the process by which federal projects can be exempted from the ESA, expand the circumstances under which protected animals can be taken, and prohibit the taking of protected plants for possession from federal lands.

For more information write Endangered Species Act Reauthorization Coordinating Committee, PO Box 50771, DC 20004.

\* \* \*

## RESOURCES

**Ronald Reagan and the American Environment.** 144 pp. \$2. Information Services, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, NY NY 10022. Ten environmental organizations have combined to compile this account over over 200 Reagan administration actions that endanger the quality of life in America.

## Consumer

Former Federal Trade Commission Chairman Michael Pertschuk has written a new book, *REVOLT AGAINST REGULATION: The Rise and Pause of the Consumer Movement* (University of California Press), which tells how lobbyists have flooded Washington, hiding their self-interest behind the all-purpose banner of "de-regulation." Congress's independence has been corrupted by its increasing reliance on special interest campaign funds.

Commissioner Pertschuk is currently leading the fight before Congress to require funeral directors and car dealers to tell consumers the truth about prices and hidden costs. He is also defending FTC enforcement of anti-trust regulations against doctors, lawyers and other professionals. He describes the origins of these battles in his book, and he makes clear that, contrary to popular misconceptions, FTC actions have often strengthened competition in our market economy.

In an articulate defense of the consumer movement, Pertschuk recounts some of its most impressive victories:

- the ban on flammable children's sleepwear
- mandated auto safety rules
- the elimination of cigarette advertising on TV
- tougher enforcement of "truth in advertising"
- the end of misnamed "fair trade" pricing (which had prevented discounts on products like Levi's jeans)
- more competition in lawyer's and doctors' fees
- freer sales of low-cost generic drugs.

\* \* \*

Top Federal Trade Commission staffers are pushing to do away with the FTC's longstanding policy requiring advertisers to back up their claims. Consumer protection chief Timothy Muris says the rule stands in the way of communicating useful information to the consumer. For example, notes

## Memorandum to public interest groups & progressive organizations

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Muris, the FTC shouldn't have forced the Sperry Corporation to withdraw its ads for an electric razor, just because Sperry couldn't prove the razor cut the incidence of "razor bumps" among black shavers. Muris's response to the Sperry ad? "I think the benefits of communicating this information are greater than the harm that's caused if the claims turn out to be false."

The Center for Science in the Public Interest claims over a million people are allergic to chemicals added to beer, wine and liquor. The center notes that sulfur dioxide, a common preservative, can knock some sensitive imbibers into a coma. And yellow dye number five, used in beer and liquor, causes similar reactions in tens of thousands of people who can't stomach aspirin. The center filed suit to require ingredient labeling for alcoholic beverages in 1972. So far, no court date has been set.

## Housing

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's proposal to virtually eliminate new construction of subsidized housing and rely almost solely on a housing voucher system is a "head-in-the-sand" approach to solving the housing crisis of the poor, according to Robert Weaver, President of the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing. The housing voucher system is part of a proposal submitted to the President's Office of Management and Budget by HUD Secretary Samuel Pierce.

Weaver says the housing voucher system will rely on the existing housing stock, an approach which incorrectly assumes there is an adequate supply of housing available to meet the needs of very low income families receiving a modest subsidy from the government. "As a matter of fact, vacancy rates

are alarmingly low in many metropolitan areas and cities, and housing units designed to accommodate larger families often are virtually nonexistent. What this means is that in these areas there will be in-place assistance, with no opportunity for mobility," Weaver explained. Moreover, rents for existing standard housing still would be out of reach for most low income families, even with that government assistance proposed, he said.

The former HUD Secretary said NCDH takes the position that strategic use of new construction, rather than sole reliance on existing housing, for the poor in areas where the vacancy rate is low; and (2) facilitating greater mobility for poor and minority families if such housing is outside areas of low income concentration. Weaver said even in areas where vacancies exist and housing costs are manageable, the housing voucher proposal fails to take into account another reality of the housing market, namely racial discrimination. Low income families, especially those who are racial minorities, will continue to be steered and channeled to housing in areas of existing poverty and minority concentration and still will be unable to exercise free housing choice under the housing voucher system unless certain safeguards are in place. "It is necessary for us to provide adequate counseling, referral and a variety of support services so as to ensure that low income families will have full information on housing availability and are able to adjust successfully to new living environments. Moreover, they must have assurances that all government agencies, including HUD and the Department of Justice, will undertake firm fair housing enforcement actions."

Weaver described as "naive" the HUD proposal that permits cities receiving community development funds to use them for new construction of subsidized housing. He argues that unless there is an increase in the amount of money made available to eligible communities most of them are unlikely to divert CD funds for construction of rental assisted housing. Furthermore, giving municipalities the option of determining whether and where to build subsidized housing is a throwback to an earlier discredited policy of local control of federally assisted housing. "Experience has shown that many municipalities, particularly suburban municipalities, go out of their way to block construction of subsidized housing, even when the programs do not permit local governmental control," he explained. Often such moves are attempts to prevent racial minorities from moving into a neighborhood by those who mistakenly believe that subsidized housing is synonymous with black housing.

\* \* \*

## Minorities

Federally assisted programs providing food, housing and social services discriminate against minority elderly persons, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights says in a study, *Minority Elderly Services: New Programs, Old Problems*.

The commission's study said that older members of minority groups frequently fail to receive their fair share of nutrition, housing and health services, transportation and counseling and are often excluded from the planning and implementation processes of these programs. For non-English-speaking minority elderly, access to services is even more complicated.

Single copies are available without charge by sending a postcard request to: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Publications Warehouse, 621 N. Payne St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

\* \* \*

Congress will open in January with four new black members. They are:

• Alan Wheat of Missouri who will who will represent the heart of Kansas City, in a district that is only 20 percent black. He takes over Richard Bolling's seat.

• Edolphus Towns, who is deputy borough president of Brooklyn. He got



83 percent of the vote against three opponents.

• Major Owens also will represent Brooklyn. He got 91 percent of the vote against three opponents. He was formerly with CORE and once led a rent strike.

• Katie Hall is a teacher and state senator. She fills an unexpired term of Adam Benjamin who died this fall.

Meanwhile, Robert Clark, who as hoping to be the first black representative from Mississippi, lost his race by just 2000 votes out of 145,000 cast.

## Politics

Several environmental groups report success in efforts to elect pro-environmental members of Congress. The League of Conservation Voters says that 46 out of the 63 candidates it had backed won. The Sierra Club reported an 80% success rate. Friends of

the Earth, Environmental Action and Solar Lobby also reported success.

According to an ABC News sampling of key House races, 59% of women voters voted Democratic while only 53% of male voters did the same. Those groups giving over 60% support to the Democrats included blacks (84%), Jews (77%), those of miscellaneous religions or no religion and those with incomes under \$15,000.

The National Organization for Women reports that of the 109 candidates it supported with campaign funds from its political action committee, 66 were elected. Supporters of women's rights, NOW says, won 21 new seats in the House.

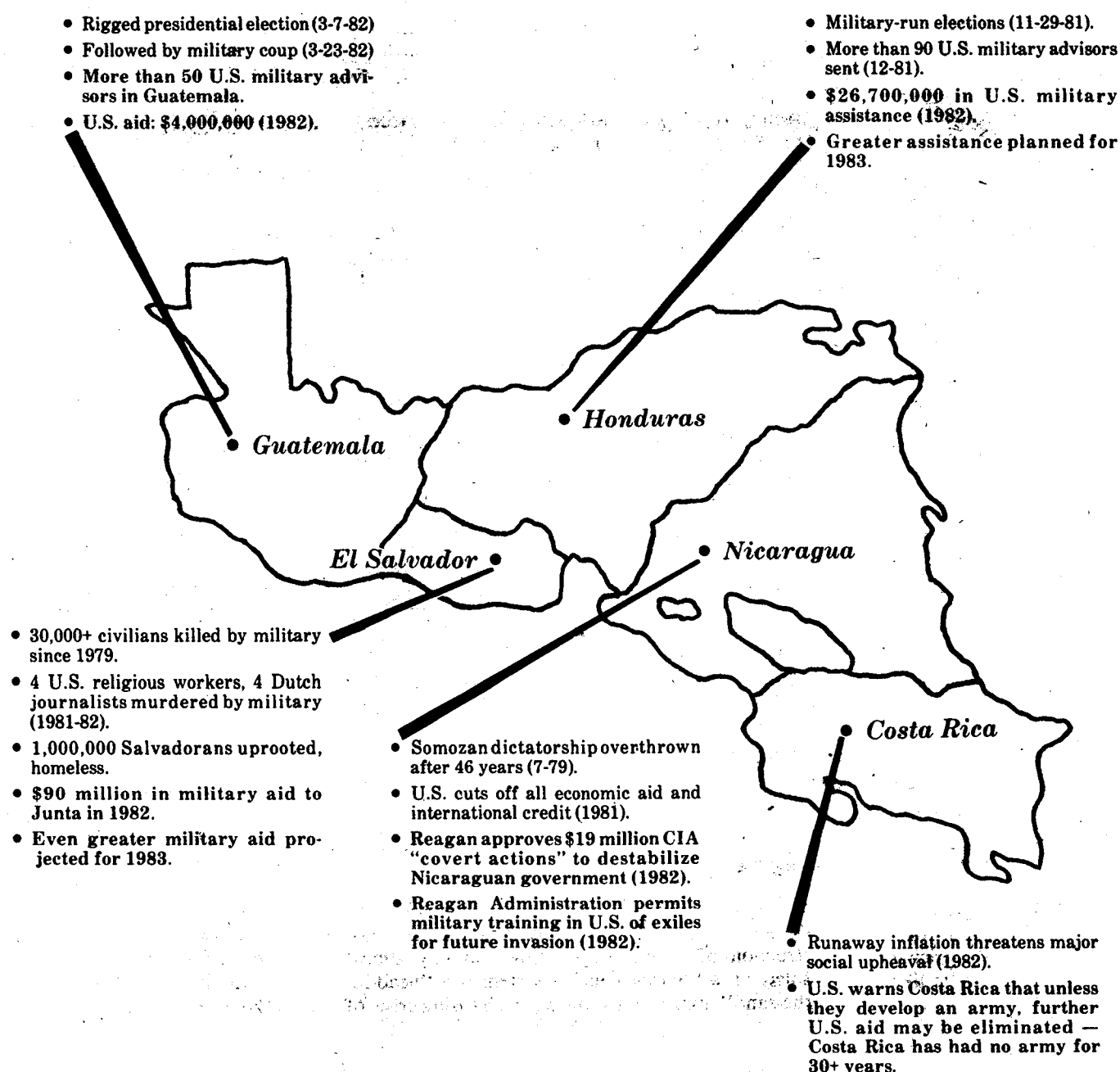
The women's vote was equally effective in state races. the women's vote tipped the balance, according to NOW, in races for the governorships of Michigan, Texas and New York. In Florida, Illinois, and North Carolina,

three states which NOW had blamed for the defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment, pro-women's rights candidates won in substantial numbers. Ten anti-ERA state senators were unseated in Florida, and the number of women state senators were doubled in that state. In Illinois, the number of women senators nearly doubled, and in North Carolina, pro-women's rights candidates won in 26 of 35 races targeted by NOW. A NOW representative said that if the ERA were to come up in these states today, it would pass.

In his bid for a seat on Denver's Regional Transportation Council, Citizens Party candidate J. Bear Baker ousted incumbent Carlos DeMoraes in a four-way race that saw DeMoraes outspend Baker more than 10 to 1. Baker's victory brought the number of elected Citizens Party officials up to eight in four states.

Stanton Kahn polled 47% of the vote in his campaign to serve on Portland, Oregon's Metropolitan Service District, and even though he just lost, the strength of his campaign has virtually assured the cancellation of an uneconomical and inefficient garbage burning project. Other good showings for

## Central American Battleground



The Disarm Education Fund (113 University Place, NYC NY 10003) is an organization working to end the Reagan administration's militaristic policies in Central America. They provided the map above, which graphically illustrates what this country is up to in the region. Incidentally, Disarm also provides us with this quote from the mouth of Roberto D'Aubisson, El Salvador's main political leader, as reported by Mexico's El Dia on February 11th: "You Germans are very intelligent; you realized that the Jews were responsible for the spread of Communism and you began to kill them."



the Citizens Party include Art Stone's 45% of the vote in his bid for a Vermont senate seat and Tim McKenzie's 40% in his Vermont assembly race.

In five other state legislative races in Georgia, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Washington, Citizens Party candidates polled 15% of the vote or more, and in Illinois, New York and Oregon, three other candidates polled over 10%.

"These results show that the Citizens Party is here to stay," said Barry Commoner, Co-Chair of the party's National Political Committee. "No one ever said it would be easy or happen overnight, but what we've been able to accomplish in 2½ short years can only be considered a significant political achievement. The Citizens Party will be a factor in future elections, and the people are going to have a choice other than between Reaganomics and Reaganomics-with-a-sometimes-human-face."

In over 60% of targeted races last month gay-endorsed and supported candidates were elected.

In Minnesota, an openly lesbian legislator, Karen Clark, just won reelection to her seat in the state house while her openly gay colleague in the state senate, Alan Spear, was reelected to his third term, as well. In Washington state, an openly gay candidate for the state house won a strong primary victory and ran a tough but unsuccessful campaign in one of the state's most conservative areas.

In Missouri's 5th Congressional District, an openly gay volunteer staff member worked full time on Alan Wheat's successful campaign and coordinated gay community support. In Oklahoma

City, an openly gay campaign manager helped incumbent State Representative Rebecca Hamilton to win reelection in the 29th district.

In Texas, the statewide network—Lesbian and Gay Democrats of Texas—worked and contributed toward the elections of the new State Treasurer and State Agriculture Commissioner.

The National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs, which coordinated this effort, worked with thirty gay Democratic clubs and several dozen bi-partisan and non-partisan gay political groups across the country.

## Women

Figures compiled by the American Bankers Association show that women account for almost 40 percent of the nation's bank managers. But, notes *The Christian Science Monitor*, middle-management seems to be about as far as women can go in the banking world. *The Monitor* notes that only 52 women are serving as presidents in a field of 14,500 commercial banks in the U.S.

Martha Simpson, director of First Bank of Colorado Springs, maintains that banks are more conservative about promoting women than other businesses. Simpson also says, however, that women are partly to blame for the shortage of female banking presidents. According to Simpson—herself a former bank president—women "just haven't been forceful enough in saying they want decision-making authority."

Midwives have been having a rough time bucking the medical establishment in the U.S., but they help deliver three-fourths of the babies born in Great Britain.

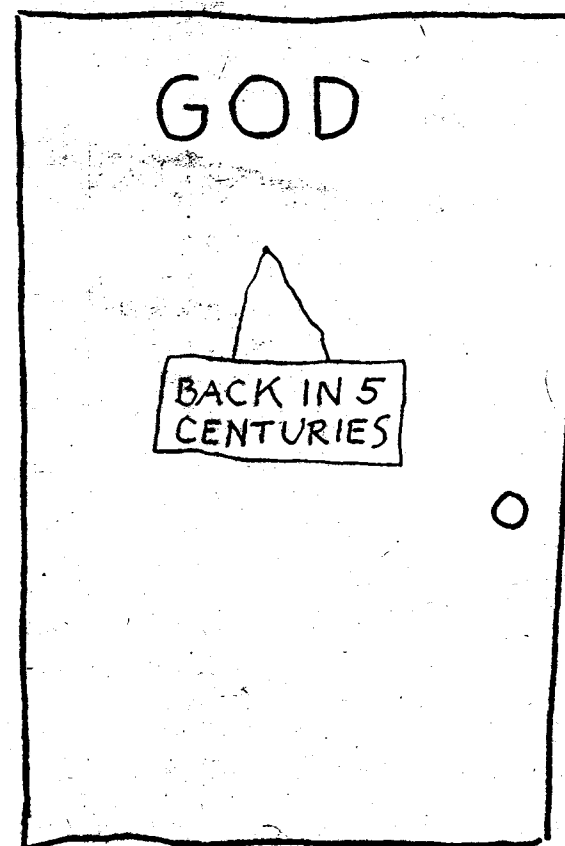
That's according to British obstetrician Denys Fairweather, who says midwives and physicians are "not in competition" in England. Instead, says Fairweather, a family doctor typically confirms a woman's pregnancy, then refers her to a midwife. The midwife then oversees the pregnancy, advising the woman on the physical and psychological aspects of having a child. Fairweather says this partnership between midwife and doctor results in a more efficient and perhaps less expensive use of medical personnel.

Fairweather notes that British midwives are certified by a special panel and are required to have three years of specialized training, or 18 months if they are already nurses.

Working mothers are often criticized for neglecting their kids, but a new study by the National Research Council says this is a bum rap. The council found working mothers spend just as much time with their children as mothers who are housewives. And their husbands spend more time with the kids, too. According to panel head Sheila Kamerman of Columbia University, critics of working mothers are ignoring the fact that a career often gives a woman greater self-esteem, which she passes on to her kids. Two-income families also provide a child with more economic security, along with benefits like medical care and education.

Kamerman claims a child's economic and social environment is more important to future success and well-being than whether or not the child's mother is home during the day. Other studies have shown that achievement levels of kids with working mothers differ very little from those of children whose mothers don't work.

Voters in California were urged to register as "Ms." rather than "Miss" or "Mrs." before last



-Tuli

month's elections, so that feminists would have an easier time contacting them.

San Francisco's chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus, reasoned it could purchase a computer tape of all voters listed as "Ms." from the state registrar of voters, and let those women know about pro-woman candidates.

The NWPC was not alone. Los Angeles mayor Tom Bradley, a candidate for governor, also bought the list. A campaign spokesperson said the candidate sent out letters to the women who registered as "Ms." in the 11 counties which had the most "Ms."-es. He sent out 500,000 letters.

Female executives are losing their jobs in record numbers, either because they lack seniority or, as one woman controller who lost her job puts it, "the political climate makes it easier for men to engage in those 'good ol' boy' biases." Executive recruiters admit, says the *Wall Street Journal*, that there's less federal pressure to hire and promote women. And in fact, the movement to fill management slots with women has nearly stopped.

A Gallup poll indicates that 44 percent of US Catholics now support the prospect of female priests, up from 29 percent in 1974.

A Department of Justice report last month revealed that the number of women in US prisons increased by 11 percent in the first six months of 1982, a rate almost twice that for men.

## Justice

The Legal Services Corporation has proposed new regulations that would drastically limit the suits legal ser-

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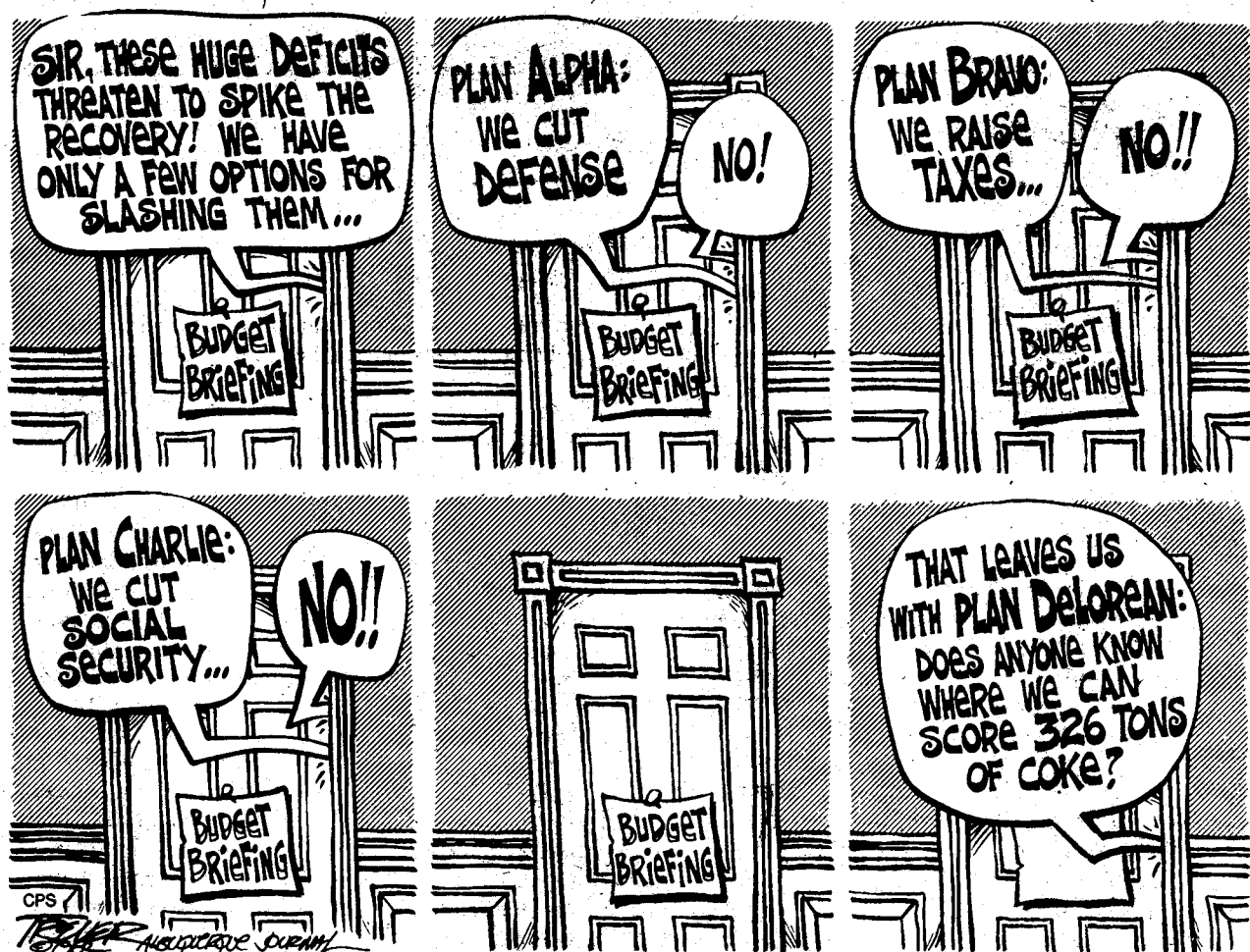
vices lawyers could bring. Under the regulations no class actions against federal, state or local government could be brought if it might lead to a court order requiring higher government expenditures. The new rules also would require consent from every member of a class before a suit was brought. The rules change is sought by Legal Services board chair William Harvey, a Reagan appointee. The proposed regulations were published in the Federal Register last month along with a milder change proposed by the Legal Services staff. The board is expected to vote on the matter this month.

The proposed rules were immediately attacked by civil libertarians and poverty lawyers. Ellen Vargyas of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association called them "a blatant violation" of the Legal Services Act. And the ACLU, through a representative, pointed out that the rules would wipe out law suits over prison conditions, housing violations, or conditions in mental institutions. Further, legal services lawyers argue that the restriction requiring consent of all members of a class would make such suits impossible.

## Appropriate technology

The first seminar on Tools for Community Economic Transformation, sponsored by the E.F. Schumacher Society, Intermediate Technology Development Group of North America, and Durutti Institute, and organized by the Schumacher Society in Great Barrington, Massachusetts last July, proved so successful that the sponsors have announced plans to hold at least two more seminars in different parts of the country.

The second seminar will be held in the San Francisco Bay Area on January 9-15. The third will take place in the Midwest, probably in the Chicago area, on June 12-18.



The seminars are designed for persons who can apply the skills acquired in the seminars to their work in community economic revitalization and in businesses serving essential community needs. Each week-long seminar will provide an opportunity to examine in depth the programs, organizations, and legal structures for integrated community economic transformation. Particular attention is given, through the study of actual examples, to innovative approaches involving the techniques of self-financing.

Further information on the forthcoming seminars is available from the Schumacher Society (Box 76, RD 3, Great Barrington, MA 01230, 413/528-1737) or the Intermediate Technology Development Group (777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, 212/972-9877). A report on the first seminar is available from ITDG in New York.

## Peace

According to the *Toronto Sun*, over 700-million of the world's people are currently involved in one war or another. That's about one person in six, and not far short of the total number of people involved in World War Two. The cost in human lives of these little wars: about 250-thousand combatants and two-million civilians every year.

The Pentagon, which cut back on military contracts to colleges during the Vietnam era, is now spending money on campuses in record amounts. The American Friends Service Committee says some 250 schools are now receiving over a billion dollars a year

## Notes from the Hill

### CETA

The "Job Training Partnership Act," which will replace the recently expired CETA legislation and was signed by the President on October 13, differs drastically from the old CETA program, particularly in failing to carve out a distinctive role for community based organizations and in giving increased authority to governors and Private Industry Councils.

Despite CETA's many weaknesses, advocates for the poor and unemployed perceive the new legislation to be far worse than CETA in at least the following ways:

- Unlike CETA, the new program does not contain a jobs component; it will be essentially a **training program**.
- It will probably be funded at only about one-fourth the level of CETA at its peak. The Administration originally requested only about \$2.4 billion for employment training in FY 1983, but advocates were able to win congressional approval for a ceiling of over \$3 billion, under the FY 1983 Budget Resolution. Exact funding levels for individual program components will be determined by House and Senate Appropriations Committees.
- The new program will take on more of the character of a state block grant program, giving governors responsibility for many functions now performed by the federal government. For example, under CETA, the Secretary of Labor (actually DOL regional offices) had the authority to approve or disapprove a local plan; now the governor has that authority.

- The new legislation makes major changes at the local level, including **elevating the Private Industry Council (PIC) to a level of equal authority with the local elected official** (called "prime sponsor" under CETA).
- The new legislation minimizes the special emphasis on serving the poor and recognition of the unique means by which community based organizations can serve them.

### ENTITLEMENTS

Thanks to the efforts of concerned individuals and organizations around the country, a number of harmful provisions were kept out of the congressional conference committee agreements on the major income-related entitlement programs: AFDC, Food Stamps, Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The President has signed both bills.

In agreeing on the two conference reports, Congress cut \$548 million from Food Stamps in FY '83 and \$1.9 billion over the next three years, \$256 million from Medicaid (\$1.4 billion for three years), \$85 million from AFDC (\$343 million for three years) and \$386 million over three years from SSI. However, even deeper cuts had been proposed.

Two of the major programmatic victories were the **defeat of the proposed optional state block grant and mandatory job search requirement** for the Food Stamp program and the inclusion of an **optional job search provision** under AFDC, with important protections for recipients.

### HOUSING

Midnight, September 30, 1982. End of fiscal year. Only one appropriations bill has passed Congress and been signed by the President. That one: the HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriation. The rest of the government will run on a "continuing resolution" until December 15, to give Congress time to act on the other appropriations. But HUD has its money for the full year. Good? No, bad.

There is no money for HUD's low income housing programs, except for public housing operating subsidies. Payments for presently subsidized projects (and Section 8 certificates) will continue, because they are under valid contracts. But this year, unless there is a supplemental appropriation, there is no more money for subsidized housing construction, or rehabilitation, or property disposition, or even Section 8 existing vouchers. True, unspent or recaptured funds appropriated last year or before might be "reprogrammed," but there is real doubt as to how much, if any, of the carry-over or recaptured funds will be used. "Where there's a will, there's a way," but there is no evidence of any will within the Administration to continue low income housing assistance.

Low income housing lost, even though there was money for it in the budget resolution, because Congress did not act on a housing authorization bill this year. Without one, there was no basis for agreement on an appropriation. To revive low income housing, Congress must pass a housing bill and then appropriate the money for it, and the President must sign both bills.

—The Monitor, newsletter of the Center for Community Change



for military-related work. Nearly half that money goes to just two universities: John Hopkins and MIT.

The eighth edition of "World Military and Social Expenditures" has been published by the Institute for World Order. The book gives country-by-country figures with some 20 graphs and charts as well as notes on sources and methodology and a statistical index. It is available from IWO, 777 United Nations Plaza, NYC NY 10017

## Media

Mother Jones has had its tax-exempt status revoked by the Internal Revenue Service. Editor Deirde English charges that the Reagan administration

is using the IRS in an attempt to shut down a publication whose views are none to popular with Reaganites.

A new media group is offering progressive radio spots to radio stations around the country. Richard Deutsch, director of the "National Progressive Broadcast Coalition," says the new organization is "trying to counter the misinformation coming from the other side."

The coalition's spots, which have already played in the Washington area, focus on such issues as abortion, nuclear weapons, handgun laws and school prayer.

## Family

A Carnegie Foundation study released last month reports that more than 25,000 churches offer some kind of child care program, serving an estimated one million children. The churches, it turns out, are the main suppliers of day care in the country. While the church-run programs tend to stress care for the financially needy, budget cutbacks are forcing them to reduce services.

## Gays

American acceptance of gays has held steady over the past five years, according to a Gallup poll released last month. Forty-five percent of those polled said gay sex should be legal. That figure is up slightly from the 43 percent approval rate in 1977. Gallup reports women continue to be somewhat more accepting of homosexuality than men, but the poll also showed that more women tend to believe gays would rather not be gay.

A committee of the San Francisco Board of supervisors has approved a plan to extend the city's employee medical insurance to cover gay and lesbian partners of city workers.

## Education

College officials are upset about the new law that will require them to see proof of military registration before giving financial aid. The aid officers who must enforce the law look at it as a government-made change in their job descriptions. They also fear it will bury them in paper-



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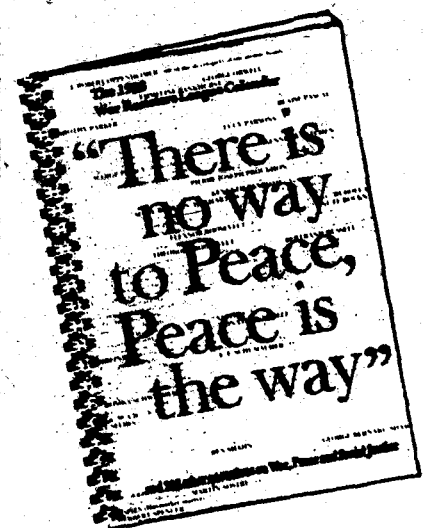
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work, overload their office staffs, muddy their mission, force them to discriminate against male aid applicants, increase their administrative costs, and even make them into targets of lawsuits from disgruntled students.

## Cities

A big loser in the forthcoming struggle over the budget is likely to be the cities. Unless Congress is willing to cut defense or entitlement programs, federal assistance to urban areas is likely to suffer severe cut-backs. Said Georgia governor George Busbee last month, "Federal assistance to states and localities is in very real danger of being squeezed out of existence as a simple matter of budgetary arithmetic."

## Health

In the wake of eight clusters of multiple miscarriages and birth defects among children born to users of video display terminals, a Canadian government panel has called for limits on the use of the computer screens. The government-appointed task force suggests that VDTs should not be used for more than five hours a day. The Canadian task force also called for

further research into possible risks to VDT users from low level radiation.

Previous Canadian research claimed that hazards from VDT use were negligible. Tests this summer, however, conducted at Canada's Bell Laboratories have verified that some terminals produce low levels of x-rays. An estimated 250,000 Canadians, mostly office workers, use the machines on the job.

In the United States, an estimated five-to-ten million VDTs are in use. University of California health researcher Laura Stock, says, however, that to her knowledge, no research at all is being conducted on possible radiation hazards. Stock and other researchers at Berkeley's Labor and Occupational Research Program (Institute of Industrial Relations, U.C. Berkeley, CA 94720) are attempting to set up a VDT coalition to look into health questions and encourage researchers to study them. Stock invites VDT workers who are experiencing problems to contact her at 415-642-5507 or the above address.

Sharon Samek of the Labor Occupational Health Program has a booklet

available on the problem. It costs \$3. Other resources include Judy Gregory of the women's organization Nine to five in Cleveland at 216-566-9308.

## Shop talk

People & Taxes, the excellent journal of tax policy, has two new editors. Tyler Bridges comes to P&T from Citizens for Tax Justice and the office of Byron Dorgan, the North Dakota congressman. Bruce Singer, who also serves as controller for Public Citizen, got an MBA from the University of Connecticut and received an award at that time for having the highest CPA exam score in the state. He has founded and managed several successful community-oriented businesses.

The National Audubon Society is moving its national headquarters from New York City to Washington. High rents are cited as a major reason.

## RESOURCES

How to Do Leaflets, Newsletters and Newspapers. Second edition of a comprehensive guide to the subject. \$5.95 each from Popular Economics Press, PO Box 289, Boston MA 02112

# A MEMORIAL LIKE THE WAR

## Eugene McCarthy

"Too long a sacrifice, can make a stone of the heart." So wrote William Butler Yeats in his Poem, "Easter 1916," about the Irish rebellion against the British that year in Dublin.

And he followed that line with this question: "Oh, when will it suffice?"

So too he might have written of the grief, rancor, resentment, other disorders and confusion of "hearts and minds" that have run on in our nation since the ending of the Vietnam War.

Yeats left the final settlement to a tribunal other than a human one and set the measure of human response in two lines of the poem.

"That's heaven's part, our part

To murmur name upon name

As a mother names her child

When sleep at last come  
On limbs that had run wild.

The monument to the dead of the Vietnamese War is a material representation of Yeats's words, as was the reading of the names of all the dead in the National Cathedral ceremony.

What better memorial for a war then to simply list the names, carved in stone, without rank or distinction, and to have each of those names said, at least once. It

was a lonely war for those who fought it. Heroism was a part of every day's mission, not of heroic landings or assaults. There was no stage in this war for officers, in battle jackets of their own design, standing on high cliffs, looking into the distance or making landings after the camera-men had been sent ashore.

The designer of the memorial, those who approved it, those who carved the names and set the stones, all are to be commended. Like the war, the memorial has no clear beginning or ending. In one perspective, it rises from the earth. In another it gradually descends. Only the marking of the years of the deaths sets any order. One veteran in attendance at the memorial service is reported to have said "It's just like the war, it's not complete. Where's the statues they're going to add?" He was half right. The memorial was like the war, as he said, but also complete, although he thought not. There should be no statues. Maya Lin, the designer, with an Oriental background, may understand better than we do, continuity, without clear beginnings and endings. She may also have understood clearly what she meant to state in her design. She may, as artists sometimes are, have been moved beyond un-

derstanding into the range of special inspiration.

Governor Brannigan of Indiana, in a moment of truth in 1968, said of the Vietnam War that he was against it because it was the first war the United States had had which was not a "happy war".

The war was not only not "happy", but positively unhappy, so much so that novelists and playwrights only recently have begun to write of it. Only poets dared, or were driven to write of it, in earlier years George Browering, Robert Bly, Richard Wilbur, Richard Snyder, Lewis Turco and many others.

All that needed to be said, or could have been said, might have been there in a poem by John Haag, simply titled "Kilroy"

"Kilroy, mustered out at last, stepped  
down from his long vigil on the walls  
above the whole damned world's  
urinals—  
and wept. Old Adam  
Kilroy, the first man  
everywhere, hero to us all  
and saint  
as combat soldiers, has  
packed it in,  
refusing to negate his  
magnificent  
career in defense of the  
just state  
by serving in Viet Nam.

Or in another poem, also called "Kilroy."

Kilroy is gone,  
the word is out,  
absent without leave  
from Vietnam.  
Kilroy  
who wrote his name  
in every can  
from Poland to Japan  
and places in between  
like Sheboygan and Racine  
is gone,  
absent without leave  
from Vietnam.  
Kilroy  
who kept the dice  
and stole the ice  
out of the BOQ  
Kilroy  
whose name was good  
on every IOU  
in World War II  
and even in Korea  
is gone  
absent without leave  
from Vietnam  
Kilroy  
the unknown soldier  
who was the first to land  
the last to leave,  
with his own hand  
has taken his good name  
from all the walls  
and toilet stalls.

Kilroy  
whose name around the  
world  
was like the flag unfurled  
has run it down  
and left Saigon  
and the Mekong  
without a hero or a song  
and gone

absent without leave  
from Vietnam.

Or more profound than all of these poetic reflections, the note accompanying a Bronze Star Medal, given to me anonymously in 1968 with this note:

(I give it with misspellings)  
"I received a medal for valor in Vietnam. But valor is a corollary of morality and this war is not moral. It has corrupted the men who fight it. It has divided the nation which conceived it.

"I cannot begin to recount the number of distasteful tasks, I witnessed American soldiers perform, including the beating of women and children and the corruption of an entire population.

"Therefore I cannot in clear conscience retain this reward for actions which is essence served to suppress the freedom of the Vietnamese people."

Yeats may well have given the best explanation in answer to his own question of deaths in 1916. "Was it needless death after all?" when he wrote

"For all that is done and said,

We know their dream:  
enough

To know they dreamed and are dead.

What if excess of love  
Bewildered them till they died."

"America is hard to see" as Robert Frost has written



# DEFINING THE UNSPEAKABLE

Leo Hamalian

When Israel's armed forces invaded Lebanon and bombed the city of Beirut in August, some observers charged Menachem Begin's leadership with launching a campaign of genocide against the Palestinian people. Though the furor has abated, the question remains: is there any substance to this grave accusation? A brief history of the word *genocide* may throw some light on this issue, as well as on others where the term has been applied.

Actually the word *genocide* is a late-comer to our language, though the practice itself dates back to at least Tamurlane, the Mongol Turk, who slaughtered the entire population of Delhi (about 80,000 people) and built pyramids of their skulls. The term did not enter our vocabulary until 1944, when Ralph Lemkin, an American scholar of Polish birth, created the word out of the Greek *gen* (people) and *cide* (murder) in his book, *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*.

Lemkin argued that *genocide* was "an act directed against a national group as an entity (italics mine)." Lemkin intended his coinage to mean the destruction of an entire people rather than the death of many people, whether or not intention was avowed. For instance, he proposed that a 1939 decree in German-occupied Poland requiring all Jewish males to do two years of forced labor qualified as genocide—because the Jews were required to surrender any tools or equipment that they possessed and had to work in labor camps. This policy, Lemkin contended, signified the inevitable and total destruction of Jewish national life.

Under the terms of Lemkin's definition, biological deaths are associated with but are not the sole measure of the atrocity. Indeed some genocides involved fewer deaths than some contemporary mass killings: the relocation of an Amazon tribe in the

name of economic development is genocide, while the 1965 massacre of perhaps 500,000 legal communists in Indonesia, inhumane and horrifying though it was, does not qualify as genocide.

Lemkin tried to have genocide banned by the United Nations, but the proceedings that followed watered down his precise and unequivocal definition. The 1948 United Nations convention decided that genocide was the destruction of a group "in whole or in part." That last phrase obscured what had been a clear concept. How much of a "part" is enough? Did the Japanese commit genocide in Manchuria? Thus modified, the terrifying distinctiveness of the term is lost. It is feasible for a legally-constituted body to judge a systematic action directed against a social totality, but a crime against humanity (like napalming "part" of the Vietnamese population) is far more difficult to judge.

The United Nations added another condition that further diluted the definition. It decided that intent had to be shown before genocide could be proved. Unless we have a document like *Mein Kampf*, intent is almost impossible to define except in the act itself. Though the Brazilian government might deny intent, it is in fact condemning certain Indian tribes to extinction. That is genocide.

Partly because of such tinkering with the term, all attempts to provide international criminal jurisdiction never materialized—even though sixty-four nations had signed the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Some observers say that such beating around the bush may be interpreted to mean that the U.N. defends the right of a member nation to commit genocide as a matter of its own internal sovereign-

ty. This criticism seems harsh, especially since the approving nations did agree that a genocide perpetrated by a government within its own territory concerns everyone. However, Indonesia recently has been employing a similar line of reasoning in refusing to permit any investigation of what is happening on East Timor. Genocide? Nonsense. It is no one's business but Indonesia's we are told—purely a matter of subduing the unruly elements among the Timorese.

One is reminded of the tragic events of 1895-1915 in Turkey. William Gladstone, the once prime minister of England, referred to them as "the deliberate determination of the Ottoman government to exterminate the Armenians." Had the Turkish policy succeeded, every last Armenian in Turkey would have perished in the Syrian desert (the Turks, too, erected their ghastly pyramids of skulls, at Deir-e-Zhor) while Turkish officials were informing the world that the "Armenian question" was "an internal matter" that could be settled without interference and which concerned only Turks. No one could cry "Genocide!" as the Turks "defended" their nation against "Armenian traitors."

The Armenians, who were the first people to embrace Christianity, were also the first victims of genocide in our time. Without comprehending the enormity of the crime that then had no name, we cannot hope to understand the nature of the equally terrible crimes that were to be carried out along the same lines later in the century. Measured against these instances of true genocide, Israel's invasion of Lebanon does not deserve to be called by that name. That does not mean that the act of bombing a civilian population is any less inhumane. But there is little point in further polluting our language.

## CHUCK STONE

CAMBRIDGE — A few weeks ago, I was thumbing through the pages of the Philadelphia Daily News when I suddenly developed an acute case of saturation.

Crime news.

Page after page after page, news stories about murder, rape, holdups and robberies assaulted the eye.

Before I could complain the next day (armed with the stories circled in red grease pencil), that day's Inquirer had splashed three crime stories on Pages 1 and 2.

"You had something in mind?" impishly inquired my editor, more learned than I in the universality of the editorial mind.

If newspapers appear to be reporting more crime these days, it's because more crimes are being committed.

A besieged mentality has manacled the American people.

Tired of being attacked, held up, assaulted, raped and burglarized, they're furious about career criminals being run through a judicial revolving door.

Violent crime hits people where they live. Street crime hurts. Forcible crime destroys.

But there's another type of crime that bothers nobody unless it attempts to tear up the Constitution.

White-collar crime.

America loses far more billions in white-collar crime than it does in blue-jeans crime.

But nobody gets excited about it because white-collar criminals can afford to employ high-rent district lawyers, buy judges and bribe prosecutors.

Recently, President Reagan declared war on crime.

But he is blithely undisturbed about suspicious criminal activity that allegedly links his secretary of labor to some low-life characters.

A few days ago, one of my students, a brilliant young man who is pursuing a master's in public administration, handed me several Xeroxed pages detailing accounts of corporate crime.

"They all appeared in the same edition of the Wall Street Journal," marveled John Weiss, who seems to be constantly hooked up to a personal energy-dispersing turbine.

In the exciting Daily News, you are surfeited with pages and pages of blue-jeans crime.

In the excruciatingly dull Wall Street Journal, the same number of stories are sprinkled expertly through the pages in smaller type. So you don't get the sensation of drowning in crime stories.

If you want a slice of life of morality of the executive suite, consider the following eight stories, which all appeared in the Wall Street Journal's Oct. 20 edition.

"Two men indicted in securities fraud involving \$300,000." In Providence, R.I., "a federal grand jury handed up a four-count indictment against a Fort Lauderdale man and his son in connection with a \$300,000 securities fraud."

In New York, a former proofreader for a financial printing concern and his estranged wife "were charged by the Securities and Exchange Commission with fraud and securities-law violations for allegedly trading non-public information."

Declared another headline: "Three banks will pay \$76,000 to settle U.S. boycott charges." They had illegally cooperated with the Arab boycott of Israel.

"New York man held in forgery scheme that netted millions." (We're still with the same edition, mind you).

In that grand theft, "police arrested a 52-year-old man on charges that he masterminded a 'multimillion-dollar ripoff' of city banks in a forged check-cashing scheme."

"Raytheon ex-official, 2 others found guilty of defrauding firm." More than \$1 million embezzled.

In the sixth story, Walco National Corp., 47 percent-owned and controlled by ex-Congressman Frederick Richmond (sentenced Wednesday for income tax evasion, possession of marijuana and arranging illegal payments to a federal government employee), has had various documents subpoenaed by the Securities and Exchange Commission for "alleged falsehoods and omissions in filings with the agency."

Seventh, "Superior Care unit accuses ex-president of fraud, funds misuse" and "seeks \$2 million in damages for his allegedly diverting \$150,000 to \$200,000 from the company for his personal use."

And finally, the corporate corruption piece de resistance: "DeLorean arrested on cocaine charges." Britain says sports-car plant will close.

On this crime-saturated day in the life of the Wall Street Journal, one news story shed reportorial rays of comfort.

"Serious crime tally of FBI declined in the 1982 first half," silver-lined the story among those dark clouds of white-collar crime.

If blue-jeans criminals want to get President Reagan's crime crusade off their backs, let them put on white shirts and get their activities reported in the Wall Street Journal.

[Philadelphia Daily News]



# AROUND THE TOWN

The Office of Planning and Development will hold a series of meetings at noon, Dec. 14, in its meeting room, fourth floor, Lansburgh's Building, 420 7th Street, N.W., to discuss the draft Comprehensive Plan. The topic of discussion is urban design and historic preservation. Participants are invited to bring brown bag lunches. For further information about additional community briefings, interested persons may call Geraldine Hughes, 727-9598.

\* \* \*

The Columbia Historical Society has closed its headquarters, the Christian Heurich Mansion, to carry out the first phase of an extensive renovation program. During the next four to six months, the entire electric circuitry and heating system and certain plumbing original to the 1894 brewer's residence, will be upgraded and replaced.

The concrete, iron, and masonry construction throughout the structure poses special challenges in the task of rewiring and reheating the mansion. Parts of finished flooring are being lifted to gain access to chandeliers below and sections of baseboards will have to be removed temporarily to replace floor outlets. The original gas-and-electric lighting fixtures have been removed so that historical lighting specialist Craig Littlewood can clean, rewire, and reassemble sconces and chandeliers.

The early 20th century heating system—its replacement for the original 1894 gravity-fed hot air

method—will be abandoned. New electrical-resistance units will be installed behind the Mansion's decorative brass radiator covers. The few exposed steam radiators and pipes and the handsome hot-air grates will be left as evidence of the ways which the house had been heated during the years of the Heurich family occupancy, 1894-1956.

\* \* \*

D.C. Housing and Community Development Director Robert L. Moore has announced the re-opening of the District's Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Program. The program makes housing rehabilitation loans to District residents who live in Community Development areas.

Under the revised program, DHCD funds will be used in conjunction with funds from local lending institutions to create below market interest rate loans. Effective interest rates to the borrower will range from 0 to 11 percent, depending on the income of the borrower for a period of 15 years.

The District is making available \$5 million for the program, for the current fiscal year, which is expected to attract some \$6 million in loans from private lenders, for a total of \$11 million available, or about 150 loans. Loans will be made of up to \$35,000 for a one-unit dwelling, with an additional \$15,000 per unit for additional living units, up to the maximum of four units.

Under federal income requirements, maximums range from \$22,670 for a single person to \$32,400

for a family of four to \$40,480 for a family of eight or more.

The District's previous rehabilitation loan program was closed to new applicants in 1979 because of a backlog of almost a thousand applications, which has since been eliminated, and severe management problems. Some 945 applications have been processed. The Department has provided 191 loans for a total of \$6.7 million. Many of the remaining applicants were not eligible. Info: 535-1515.

\* \* \*

The District has received a \$75,000 grant from the federal government to develop preliminary plans to create a 16-acre site near the Southwest waterfront as an International Village complex. The city has asked the Federal City Council to administer the grant, select a team of consultants, and prepare a detailed proposal for public review next spring.

The Village would be developed on a 550,000 square foot largely publicly-owned site between the Southwest Freeway and Maine Avenue, S.W., just east of the fish market and waterfront restaurants. It is proposed to include the following features:

- World exposition area: a permanent display with cultural exhibits from many of the 140 nations which have diplomatic offices in the District, including space for the performing arts.

- International Trade Center: a meeting place for trade representatives from many nations, including

**SCHOOL LEASING RULES:** A Board of Education committee last month approved rules for leasing surplus school buildings and space. A DC law enacted a year ago allows the school system to enter into leasing arrangements. The approach was developed after strong community opposition to planned school closings. Under the proposed rules educational organizations would get first crack at the surplus space. Empty buildings could only be leased in their entirety if they are expected to remain surplus for at least ten years. Space within operating schools could be leased if they are expected to remain surplus for at least two years. Whole building leasing would be done at fair market value, while organizations leasing space would have to share the school's operating cost and win community approval. In all, the plan represents a commendable approach to the problem of under-used schools.

**COLLEGE LOANS AVAILABLE:** The DC Bankers Student Loan Fund is offering loans of up to \$2500 to undergraduates and up to \$5000 to graduate students who are residents. Info: 783-4522.

**ED BOARD SENDS BUDGET:** The Board of Education has sent its next year budget to the city council. The board is asking for \$336 million, a 7% increase over last year. Budget hearings will be held in January. ... The board revised the superintendent's budget by adding more money for safety and security, high school attendance aides, lower pupil/teacher ratios in junior high, and additional positions for Buildings and Grounds.

**HARD WINTER FOR THE HOMELESS:** By October, the number of homeless persons living in emergency shelters was triple that of a year earlier. Rev. John Steinbruck, pastor of Luther Place Church, which recently opened a women's shelter, told the Post, "We're all overloaded and there's no relief, night after night, day after day." ... The Community for Creative Non-Violence soup kitchen needs volunteer cooks especially on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Interested chefs can call 667-7884.

**NUKE PLANT ACCIDENT TOLL:** A study by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission estimates that in the worst case accident involving Virginia's Surry plants, 17 miles northwest of Newport News, some 43,000 persons might be killed within one year and 69,000 injured. In the case of North Anna, 40 miles northwest of Richmond, the figure is 2200 early deaths and 9000 injuries. In the case of Calvert Cliffs, the estimated toll would be 7000 early deaths and 26,000 injuries.

**REHAB HOSPITAL SITE MOVED:** Developer Jeffrey Cohen has dropped plans to build a \$512 million rehabilitation hospital for the physically handicapped on the old Children's Hospital site and will build it instead near the Washington Hospital Center. The hospital which had been touted as helping to revitalize the area around 13th & V NW was criticized by health planning authorities as too large and costly.

**POLICE PROPOSE CHANGES:** DC police officials have proposed to the mayor that police respond immediately only to serious crimes. Less important matters would be handled initially by telephone report. Barry is reportedly stalling on this because of the likely public outcry over such a policy. The police also proposed analysing crime statistic gathering and use uniformed police officer, rather than detectives, to investigate some crimes.

**MINORITIES DO WELL AT CONVENTION CENTER:** The DC Convention Center reports that 49% of all 1982 expenditures for equipment and services was awarded to minority-owned businesses.

**TAX ON VACANT BUILDINGS:** the city council is considering a bill that would impose a tax of \$1000 a year on each residential building which has been vacant for three consecutive years. Buildings undergoing rehabilitation or demolition would be exempt. The bill, 4-252, was introduced by Dave Clarke and Wilhelmina Rolark and is in the finance and revenue committee.

**HEATING GAS TO GO UP:** Washington Gas Light officials estimate that heating costs for its customers will go up about 23% this winter as a result of higher wholesale prices that went into effect September 1. WGL has filed an objection to the wholesale price increase with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Washington Post estimates that electric heating bills will go up 2-5% and heating oil will stay about the same. Even with the price increase, heating with gas should be cheaper than heating with oil, but more expensive than electricity.

**NEW HEARING COMMISSIONERS:** The Superior Court is introducing the use of hearing commissioners instead of judges for arraignments and traffic court. The commissioners are to be local lawyers with at least three years of experience. The purpose is to reduce the court's backlog of cases.



an institute to inform businesses about how to conduct international trade. A one-stop center might be included to simplify the process of obtaining a passport and all necessary visas for travellers overseas.

• International Educational Center: to serve as a place for specialized instruction in languages and culture and for international student exchange programs.

grams. The center would provide meeting and training rooms.

There are now 30 service stations where District motorists will be able to have their vehicles reinspected.

Under the program, motorists whose vehicles fail their annual safety inspections will be able to take

their vehicles to private garages and service stations for reinspection instead of returning to one of the District's two inspection stations. In many cases, motorists will be able to have repairs made and reinspection carried out by the same establishment. Motorists will still be able to return to D.C. inspection stations for reinspection, if they prefer.

The program will eliminate the need for the

## THE DC BOOKSHELF

**DC MAGAZINES: A LITERARY RETROSPECTIVE.** This work contains an anthology of pieces from three of Washington's most important literary magazines, Portfolio, Voyages and Dryad. Editor Richard Peabody has also included a listing of literary magazines published here from the 18th century on and a list of alternative newspapers and arts magazines published since the sixties. \$7.95.

**THE FIRST WOMEN WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS.** Tells the story of women who early broke the sex barrier to cover the capital city, beginning with Jane Grey Swisshelm who won a seat in the Senate Press Gallery in 1850 despite a warning from Vice President Fillmore that "the place would be very unpleasant for a lady." \$2.00

**ANCIENT WASHINGTON: American Indian Cultures of the Potomac Valley.** A rare and valuable anthropological look at the beginnings of Washington culture. \$3.00

**LAW AND ORDER IN THE CAPITAL CITY: A History of the Washington Police 1800-1886.** An interesting perspective on crime and police work of an earlier time. \$3.00

**YESTERDAY'S WASHINGTON:** A photographic history of our city that all lovers of DC will want to have. 20% off at \$7.95.

**THIRTY-TWO PICTURE POST CARDS OF OLD WASHINGTON, DC.** Ready to mail. Rare photos reproduced as post cards in sepia. A different way to stay in touch. \$2.75.

**CAPTIVE CAPITAL:** Sam Smith tells the story of non-federal Washington. "Not only well worth reading, but it is the best book we are likely to read on Washington," Bryce Nelson of the LA Times. "An excellent gift," Bill Raspberry in the Washington Post. "Must Reading," Afro-American. "A joy to read," Robert Cassidy in the Chicago Tribune.

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**BOSS SHEPHERD AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.** The fascinating tale of DC's only true political boss and perhaps the most controversial figure in local history. \$3.

**FOGGY BOTTOM 1800-1975. A Study in the Uses of an Urban Neighborhood.** From the old neighborhood of Hamburg to the struggles over urban renewal and the Kennedy Center. \$4.00

**GENTRIFICATION IN ADAMS MORGAN: Political and Commercial Consequences of Neighborhood Change.** Going behind the cliches to actually what happens in gentrification, author Jeffrey Henig has presented an important addition to the study of this phenomenon. \$5.00

**PUBLIC STREET ILLUMINATION IN WASHINGTON DC: An Illustrated History.** Any Washington buff will enjoy this book that tells the fascinating story of these mundane objects — the street lamps. \$3.50.

**OLD WASHINGTON, DC, IN EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS: 1846-1932.** This is a truly fine collection of over 200 prints that provide an enduring record of this city. \$7.95.

**SECRET CITY:** Constance Green's history of black Washington. A highly readable trip through the city's black past. \$5.95

**JOHN WIEBENSON'S MAP OF WASHINGTON:** Done in Wieb's wry and pointed style, this map was drawn for the Bicentennial and is now available for 40% off at \$1.50.

**WASHINGTON:** Constance Green's Pulitzer Prize-winning comprehensive history of Washington is now available in paperback for only \$7.50. The basic book of DC history.

**A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR WASHINGTON STUDIES AND DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR LOCAL COLLECTIONS:** This is a revised and enlarged edition of an outstanding bibliography of Washington materials that has been out of print for several years. It has been compiled and annotated by Perry G. Fisher of the Columbia Historical Society and Linda J. Lear of George Washington University. There are nearly 350 entries in the new edition, as well as updated descriptions of the major local collections of Washingtoniana. \$6.

**ALLEY LIFE IN WASHINGTON: Family, Community, Religion and Folklife in the City, 1850-1970.** By James Borchert. Borchert challenges conventional wisdom that the impact of the city led to the breakdown of migrants' social institutions. Borchert shows how Washington's alley dwellers adapted patterns that permitted continuity and survival in an often harsh environment. The male-headed nuclear family composed the fundamental unit in this urban subculture, but extended families, kinship networks, alley communities, and folk and religious traditions continued to provide coherence and to help alley dwellers cope with the rigors of everyday life. Forgoing outside assistance, these self-reliant people adjusted to their limited incomes and tiny quarters by using folk cures, remedies, and food sources, as well as by devising ingenious furniture. These crowded but isolated and homogeneous populations were able to shape close-knit communities, with social hierarchies which administered aid and comfort to the needy, but which also punished transgressors. This book is being sold by the Gazette at 20% off list price. \$14.80.

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District to expand its own inspection facilities when mandatory exhaust emission inspections for air pollution go into effect in January.

DOT estimates that some 50,000 vehicles will be reinspected by service stations and automotive repair facilities each year under the program.

Beginning last January 27, District motorists, during their annual automobile safety inspection, also began receiving a test to determine if their vehicles are in compliance with District and federal clean air standards.

To carry out the test, an inspector places a probe in the tailpipe of a vehicle. Exhaust gases collected by the probe are analyzed automatically. A computer prints the results, compares them to standards and indicates if the vehicle is polluting too much. This information can then be used to guide repairs or adjustments to improve engine performance, thus reducing the pollution produced.

In this first year of the program, the test is for information and education only. Beginning in January 1983, motorists with vehicles with readings above acceptable levels will be required to have adjustments made.

\* \* \*

## THE REGION

For the past two decades metropolitan Washington has led both the nation and most other major metropolitan areas on a number of key indicators of changing lifestyles and family living patterns. This is the major finding of a study performed by George and Eunice Grier of The Grier Partnership for the Greater Washington Research Center.

Metropolitan areas studied in addition to Washington, D.C., were: Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles-Long Beach, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Francisco-Oakland, and St. Louis. When seventeen key lifestyle indicators were averaged, Washington was first, San Francisco-Oakland was second, and Minneapolis-St. Paul was third.

In terms of virtually every family and lifestyle indicator studied, metropolitan Washington led the nation. (The only important exception was the divorced population.)

## Free Parking

Africare, a private, non-profit voluntary organization working to improve the quality of life in rural Africa through the development of water resources, increased food production and the delivery of health services, is sponsoring its 2nd Annual Essay Contest on Africa for the D.C. Public Senior High Schools. This year's theme is "Africa and the United States—Linkages in an Interdependent World." The contest is open to all students enrolled in a D.C. public senior high or career development center.

All interested students should contact their school counselor, Social Studies department or English department as soon as possible to obtain the Africare Contest Brochure containing the rules of the contest and further details.

\* \* \*

The D.C. government has announced a vacancy on the Board of Trustees of UDC.

The public is invited to make nominations. Individuals also may nominate themselves. Persons who wish to submit nominations should write to Chairperson, UDC Nominating Committee, University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees, 4200 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Building 38, Room 104, D.C. 20008.

\* \* \*

On most key lifestyle indicators—fertility, singles, non-family households, working women, income—Washington also stood at the top, or very close to the top, among 14 major metropolitan areas having populations of over 2 million in 1980. The study showed that Washington:

- Leads in the "baby bust"—having the lowest 1980 fertility ratio (number of young children per woman of childbearing age) and the sharpest decline in its 1970-1980 fertility ratio;

- Ranks high in the "singles boom"—being tied for second place in having the greatest percentage of its population not currently married in 1980, is first in having the greatest percentage 1970-1980 decrease in its percent of currently married persons, and is first in its 1980 percent of population who have never been married;

- Is near the top in "non-family" households—ranking third in its 1980 percentage of households not containing families and second in its 1980 percentage of households consisting of two or more unrelated persons;

- Is a leader in working women—with the highest 1980 female labor force participation rate and the second highest 1970-1980 increase in female labor force participation rate; and

- Is at the top in rising incomes—with both the highest 1980 median household income and the highest 1980 per capita income.

\* \* \*

Automobile travel in Metropolitan Washington will increase more than 50 percent in the next 20

years and traffic congestion will grow worse, according to a new report from the Council of Governments.

Vehicle miles traveled will increase from the present 45 million miles today to over 68 million, with most of the jump coming in trips from one suburb to another. Commuting will also show a sharp rise, with another half million commuters adding a million trips a day to the present 2.3 million. Nearly half of these trips (434,000) will begin and end in one of three counties—Fairfax, Montgomery and Prince George's.

The report estimates that, "The completion of the 101-mile Metro system will maintain the level of satisfaction of transit users, but it will still not meet the needs of a growing number of intra-suburban commuters."

The report identified several transportation corridors which will experience severe strain on their capacity including the Burke and Pohick areas of Fairfax County and the County's I-95 corridor, the Route 7 corridor from eastern Loudoun County to Tyson's Corner, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge corridor and the corridor running northeasterly through Arlington County and the District of Columbia in the vicinity of Chain Bridge. "Early and continuing attention" should be given to those areas, the report said.

Copies of the report are available for \$5 from COG's Metropolitan Information Center, 1875 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. The phone number is 223-6800, ext. 230.

\* \* \*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DC women

"DC Women" [October issue] makes some generalizations about women, even though the author criticizes them for generalizing about him. The main problem I find with this is that it weakens his arguments for some very valid points.

Though I never grew up feeling the need to get sensitized (I was brought up with equality/sharing of men and women as a principle in practice), I also have experienced 99 99/100% of those same scenes about which the author wrote.

I would like to elaborate on one specific point he made: that "expressing interest in a woman is taken as a gambit to slap her into bed." I appreciated his amusing fable about the Decent guys and Schmucks, but I don't believe he addresses a larger question: What's bad about sex? Sex has been abused as a tool of power; that's what the problem is. I feel sex is a very fragile, very intimate form of communication. The women I have encountered, as well as the author of the article, go on the assumption the sex is a threat — that sex will somehow make them irreparably vulnerable. This distinction must be made before men and women, in this town of money and power, can ever begin to open up to each other.

Self reliance makes each human stronger as an individual. These individuals grow, share and love. Vindictive mistrust and hostility alienates each human. These individuals pigeonhole and pre-judge. These are my two generalizations.

JAMES SOROCO  
Washington DC

Ross Beatty wrote with sincerity in the October issue on relations between men and women. He seems to have meant well and I don't doubt him.

He claims he tried to help to improve things in the sexual field: "I did my bit." I wonder for whom he was trying to be a decent fellow? For the superior women with natural, healthy instincts? Or for the manipulators, the studied, the bitter, for those would like to feminize me: and masculinize women?

Rosa Luxemburg is mentioned twice in Mr. Beatty's article. In his view, she is in the "great" class. I looked her up. "With Karl Lieb-Knecht she founded the Communist Spartacus Party and edited with him "Die Rote Fahne." Class frictions. How wonderful. By the way, a West German stamp was put out honoring her (so much for the GI's defending Bonn against communism).

Mr. Beatty brings up the fact that some women seem to be ambitious in today's world. Why not? Aren't they faced with some of the lovely economic realities: inflation, ruthless predators, real estate sharks, a heavily non-populist federal government?

There is hope if more men and women resist media manipulators who have tried to sow mistrust between men and women.

I'd like to quote Jill Tweedie in the Guardian:

"Like puppets on a string, the couple play out society's stereotypes and then must take the consequences as individuals if things go badly wrong. ... We could — without too much effort — turn all our present standards on their heads and define ourselves anew, tomorrow, if we so choose."

R JONES  
Washington DC





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# A NEW APPROACH TO URBAN HOUSING

**Mary Ellen Leary**

When earthquake-devastated San Francisco rebuilt itself from the ground up after 1906, it earned the nickname "the city that knows how." Today, confronted with an enormous explosion in housing costs, this city is once again trying to prove that it knows how to beat a very big problem.

And although the final verdict is not yet in, early indications are that a novel housing formula has emerged here which offers new hope to beleaguered American home-seekers.

Relying primarily on City Hall's zoning and permit-granting powers, San Francisco is exacting specific commitments from office developers to provide new housing inside its city limits—some for the impoverished and some for the affluent, but most for moderate income workers whom high costs have been fast driving out.

All builders of new commercial structures above ten stories must now also finance a set number of housing units. New high-rise tourist hotels are similarly being tapped, at the rate of 50 cents per room daily for 80 percent of their total capacity, over the next 20 years.

To fulfill their housing obligation, developers may team up with a public or non-profit agency, build homes at market rates themselves, or allot several floors of an office tower to condominium use. An occupancy permit is not issued for a new high-rise until one of these housing arrangements is firmly worked out with the city.

The plan is already yielding visible results:

- Since March, 1981, commitments amounting to \$17 million have been won from 15 commercial developers. Eventually, these funds are expected to produce 2,100 housing units; some 750 remodeled and rehabilitated apartments for the low-income and elderly are already nearing completion.

- First-home purchases will be made possible for at least 650 families whose income ranges between \$26,000 and \$48,000 annually. Though the average price of a San Francisco home is well over \$145,000, the new units must sell for no more than \$115,000, with customized payment plans designed for each purchaser.

- Construction will be resumed on 300 more moderate-income family units in a redevelopment project which had stalled and needed outside assistance.

- A \$3 million commitment by developers of a 32-story Ramada Inn, now under construction, will help finance the rehabilitation and purchase of four run-down residential hotels. The hotels are to house 468 people at no more than \$100 per month for a single room. Similar commitments have been made by Holiday Inn and Hilton.

Dramatic pressures on the housing market led this city to improvise its mandatory linkage between living quarters and new office space. San Francisco covers just 49 square miles, and its housing is typified by single-family homes on narrow, 25-foot lots reclaimed from sand dunes, and apartment buildings clinging to steep hillsides. Real estate studies indicate that a comfortable three-bedroom residence priced under \$100,000 in Chicago, Dallas or Atlanta commands \$235,000 here. Rental apartments are being converted into expensive condominiums at a rapid clip, and aging Victorian homes which once sheltered low-income inhabitants have become priceless attractions for the affluent. Yet as city housing official George Williams points out, "We have no raw land for new housing. We are a fully developed city. All we can do is try to manage the rebuilding of our city."

The need for such management became plain as construction of giant financial district towers produced a staggering amount of new office space in San Francisco almost overnight. In 15 years the city

has doubled its commercial area, with 10 million square feet constructed since 1980 alone. Another 5 million are in the pipeline.

When city officials weighed that work area and its potential army of clerical employees and modest-salaried mid-level managers against the housing scarcity, they foresaw alarming commuter parades and a city emptied at nighttime of most daytime workers. In effect, the high-rise boom had to come to terms with the housing problem, or an undesirable future was in store.

Since Proposition 13, tax receipts have not been easy to come by in California. But using a state environmental impact law by which public agencies can require "mitigation" of undesirable consequences from new structures, the administration of Mayor Dianne Feinstein won—or wrung—compliance with its imaginative formula. Estimating that every 250 square feet of new office space means one worker, San Francisco now aims to have 40 percent of such workers housed inside its own boundaries. On that ratio, it has established a fixed housing requirement for each new office building, with special credits offered for housing the elderly or poor.

One unusual option available to builders is a cash contribution into a fund the city will use to lower interest rates for middle-income housing buyers. A

\$6 million pool has already accumulated for that purpose, to be added to a special \$60 million tax-free mortgage bond.

Skeptics will be watching closely. A good deal of acrimony still lingers here because the city's last tax-free mortgage bond issue, \$85 million worth, went to construct glamorous Opera Plaza, a large cluster of very expensive condominiums on a redevelopment site. In 1980 Congress imposed stricter rules over public bond issues, however, requiring that prices for housing units thus financed be no higher than community averages. In addition, California law now demands that such bonds assist only moderate-income, first-home purchasers.

Office developers have not been universally acquiescent to the San Francisco formula. Chamber of Commerce officers say some large firms have moved to surrounding suburbs, where space and housing are cheaper, and where local officials do not make extraordinary demands.

But activists lobbying on behalf of San Francisco's immigrant and elderly poor claim the city is not doing enough. They point out that more than 5,000 single rooms once available to transients and senior citizens have been converted to use by more affluent residents in just the past five years.

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For months the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* gave lavish coverage to the 1982 elections. Neither printed all House vote totals. The *Washington Times* and *USA Today* did. The *Post* gave all gubernatorial returns, *USA* had all states' statewide races plus many referenda. In it you found that five of nine Virginia jurisdictions voted not to repeal blue laws.

The *Post* gave no ward breakdown of DC voting on statehood and the nuclear freeze. (The *NY Times* and *Boston Globe* gave far more detailed data on their local races.) Although statehood won by but 7,000 votes there was no serious analysis of voting patterns. "The 1982 Elections: the District and Virginia" had the results by county for governor and senator in Maryland. The *Globe* printed detailed lists of campaign contributors to several campaigns.

The *Post* mostly ignored turnout. *USA* ran a chart comparing statewide turnout this year with the last mid-term election. Nationally about 42% voted, up around 2% from 1978. This ended a 20-year downward trend. DC's 23.7% (up 4.4%) was the nation's lowest. Va.'s 34.7% and Maryland's 35% reflected increases of 2.5% and 1.2%. The hot Texas race brought turnout up to 29.1%. A similar California contest saw a 2.1% drop to 41%.

A 41" *Post* story on the Maryland elections never mentioned Bob Bauman's old district where Dyson made a long jump to over 69% of the vote in being re-elected.

A *Post* piece on Alabama's primary runoff allotted 10" for the views of black leaders who urged black voters not to vote for Wallace, and 2" for the voters' views. Why did they favor Wallace, who now says his old segregationist views were wrong? The wife of a black lawyer (*Post*) and state senate candidate (*Miami Herald*) said voters considered Wallace's change a victory, and the idea of forgiveness fit their religious beliefs. She was reminded of the abused child who loves the parent who desists more than a stranger. The *Post* used only the latter comment. Local black leaders told the *NY Times* that Governor Wallace's education and job training programs had helped blacks.

Both the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Post* interviewed political scientist Natalie Davis. The former reported her analysis that Wallace supporters, mostly rural and working-class (black and white), saw him as a champion against bureaucrats, special interests, and urban intellectuals, and thought they had been better off economically under him. Davis noted there was a crossover vote in Alabama; Republicans had voted against Wallace in the runoff, figuring he'd be easier to beat in the general election. The *Post* ignored all of the above, carrying only Davis's estimate of who had what per cent of the vote.

The *Post* ignored the new-look courthouse crowd. In Lowndes County a committee founded by the sheriff, a black, was working for Wallace (*Herald*).

*Post* headline: "... Wallace is Running as the Liberal Candidate." First sentence: "His wife ... packs a .38 ..." Next one: "His press secretary beds down with a gun ..." Paragraph three reveals that "his" refers to Republican candidate Folmar, not Wallace. The Wallace liberal bit appears in paragraph eight. The story, like the paper's others, said little of Folmar's policies or how he might affect blacks. Folmar testified against extending the voting rights act, and is said to have diverted federal community funds into wealthy white areas rather than to poor blacks, and to have been to blame for harsh police acts against blacks.

The *Post* after the election: Folmar's polls gave him at least an outside chance. Six days before: Folmar's poll shows him ahead. The article never gave Wallace's victory margin. It noted the state's changing economy and one of the US' highest unemployment rates, but didn't specify the changes or give the unemployment rate.

Perhaps the *Post*'s greatest failing (shared by many in the media) was to take no particular note of a populist who, at least in this election, returned the appeal to the poor against the domination of the rich to its often non-racist roots.

A *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* series found women: increasingly in political organizational posts (example: executive director, Republican Congressional Campaign Committee), forming more political ac-

# THE PRESS

## Bob Alperin

tion committees, and showing greater fund-raising and organizational skills. Predominantly female professions such as nursing and social work are becoming more politically active. Polls show women care about a wide range of issues but many male politicians still think "woman" means talk ERA and equal pay for equal work, and hope abortion doesn't come up.

One reason why Republican losses weren't greater may have been voter misinformation as to how much of the President's economic program was passed. When Richard Wirthlin, Reagan's pollster, asks how much passed Congress he found only 20% knew it was about all. Other replies: About half, 39%, less than half, 25% (*Boston Globe*). Appeals to give him a chance may have had less value to those who knew Congress gave him what he wanted.

- France, West Germany, and Canada oppose US efforts to link Namibian independence to Cubans leaving Angola, said French Foreign Minister Cheysson (*NY Times*).

- South Africa proposed to triple to 720 over 12 years the days of service for white males. A "prime reason" was a "planned increase" in SA's presence in Namibia over the next three years. Business leaders feared the call-ups would disrupt the private sector (*Rand Daily Mail*, Johannesburg). Isn't Reagan's quiet diplomacy supposed to bring Namibia's independence sooner than three years?

- *New African*, a Britain-based newsmagazine, detailed alleged South African terrorism including the use of parcel bombs. It said CIA sources confirmed that US firms supply equipment that goes to SA via Israel in violation of UN and US bans on weapons sales to them.

Ruth First, killed by a letter bomb in Mozambique, was described in *The Times* (London) as a writer and academic of "international repute." On leave from Durham U. (Britain), she headed a research project on migrant labor. A major part of her writings examined the effects of SA's economy and politics on blacks. She co-authored *Olive Schreiner*, a biography of an early SA feminist, and was a member of the African National Congress which seeks to overthrow the SA government. *The Times*' story covered 25". There was a 12" obituary.

"Parcel Bomb Kills S. African Opposition Figure" headed some *Post* "Around the World" briefs. She was a "prominent white ... oppositionist and internationally known author" whose husband was a Communist leader and a strategist in the ANC. A Mozambique official said the attack resembled others attributed to SA. The next day Mozambique accused SA of killing the "radical" writer whose death was thought "linked to her marriage." This minimal coverage surpassed that the *Post* usually gives to killings of ANC members.

The *Washington Times* had a lengthy interview with Alfonso Robelo, an exiled ex-Sandinista junta member who seeks to overthrow the Sandanista government. Uncontradicted, he claimed Edan Pastora as an ally. Months earlier Pastora had dissolved his organization because of the strong role of the US and ex-Somoza guardsmen in the opposition movement. See the October *Gazette*. Rev. Moon's N.Y. paper did the interview.

- A 4" *Post* story about a massacre by Guatemalan government forces devoted 2" to their denial. The *Inquirer* ran 12" and the *Globe* 15" of a UPI story.

- A single sentence in a story on a related topic was the *Post*'s way of reporting a major Israeli policy change that benefitted Palestinians: Israel dropped its objection to the construction of permanent housing for Palestinians whose homes were destroyed during the invasion of Lebanon.

- A front page *Post* story, over 35", reported that a Polish communist hardliner criticized Gen. Jaruzelski for his economic policies and his dia-

logue with the Catholic Church. The same day, unreported in the *Post*, Polish Archbishop Jozef Glemp hit at Reagan's sanctions against Poland, saying they hurt the people. He said the church opposed Solidarity's call for a Nov. 10 strike (UPI: *Inquirer*). Earlier the *Post* ignored Glemp's first sermon after the ban on Solidarity. After criticizing the government for acting without consulting the working-class, he said the church had been swamped with people asking what to do. He advised avoiding violent protest. (wire services, *Herald*).

A PATCO strike footnote: the US Dept. of Transportation has over 200 lawyers and the Federal Aviation Administration has a legal staff, but Sec. Lewis paid over \$400,000 to a private law firm to represent the government in bargaining with the air controllers. White House Counsel Fred Fielding was at the firm 12 years but DOT said they were merely the best for the job. (*Herald*).

The *Post* reported that Brazil would sell patrol planes and armored personnel carriers to Guyana, and build a road in a mineral-rich Guyanese jungle region also claimed by Venezuela. The *Herald* noted this was "a major policy shift," that Brazil's military feared Venezuelan use of force would cause Guyana to ask Cuba for troops, and that the aid also included building a bridge and a hydroelectric dam. A *Herald* map makes clear that the proposed development would link an isolated part of Brazil with Guyana's coastal capital, Georgetown. The *Post* had Venezuela claiming a third of Guyana, but the *Herald*'s almost two-thirds looks about right.

Riots pitting housing squatters against police are not rare in Western Europe, but *Post* coverage is often thin or absent. It did 2" on a major Amsterdam eruption, with 1" going to the damage at the US consulate's double security fence. The *Inquirer* (AP, 12") indicated that about 10,000 people, many teens, had moved into office building vacated by businesses relocated to the suburbs. The next day there were riots in three cities. In Amsterdam, groups simultaneously hit 16 banks, four police stations, and two council offices (*Inquirer*, UPI). The *Post* had no story.

*Post*: "New Quasar Potentially Rated Most Distant Ever Discovered." *Herald*: "Scientists see most distant object ever." At about 12 billion light years' distance it was a billion beyond what some thought might be the outer limit. In 4" the *Post* explained neither quasar nor light-years. A 15" *Herald* story noted that quasars look like stars but seem to generate more energy than 100 billion stars. A light-year is the distance light travels in a year. The observed light began its trip long before our solar system was formed. Earlier the *Herald* science section did a quasar series.

- A long story in the *Post* "World News" section: "11 Approved for Hospital Board in P.G."

- Another of those over-two-stories *Post* headlines, on the front page: "Four Cuban Officials Indicted in Drug Smuggling." One sub-head: "Overdoses Blamed In 7 D.C. Deaths." No, the Cubans weren't linked to the O.D.'s.

- A misleading headline: "Murderer of Roper Gets Life." By the third paragraph it's learned the rapist, torturer, killer can be paroled in about 12 years.

Among wire service stories not in the *Post*:

- A cloned gene has been inserted into the hereditary material of a complex organism, the fruit fly. It should aid study of how genes are regulated and how they work in complex organisms. (UPI: *Inquirer*, *Globe*.)

- Women using marijuana during pregnancy tend to have babies of less than average weight. Some had features normally associated with fetal alcohol syndrome. (An excellent *Post* story reported that alcohol cuts off oxygen to the fetus possibly leading to the brain damage found in fetal alcohol syndrome. The Nov. 5 report related the new study to a variety of past ones.) Less than 3 times a week marijuana users and pack a day or more cigarette smokers delivered infants about 3 ounces smaller than nonsmokers (AP: *Baltimore Sun*; also *USA*). Though studying 1,690 mother-child pairs, the researchers noted that the study must be repeated before firm conclusions are drawn.



- A three drug combination given to 17 patients with advanced rheumatoid arthritis cured five and eased the pain in nine. There was actually some regrowth of damaged bone (AP: *Sun*; *USA*).

- A national study of 10,940 men and women found drugs cut the death rate among mildly hypertensives by 20% (AP: *Sun*). The "milds" have diastolic pressure (the second number in a blood pressure reading) between 90 and 104. Critics had said the danger of drug side effects outweighed the disease's danger. (*Hartford Courant*).

- Garlic, ginseng root, and barley flour in animal (poultry, rats, swine) diets inhibited cholesterol accumulation. The high protein barley flour contained parts usually removed in commercial milling (*Milwaukee Journal*; *AP: Sun, Herald*).

- MX missile contractors' congressional campaign contributions were almost double 1980's. Their top recipient (Sen. Cannon-D, Nev.) and a runnerup (Sen. Schmidt-R, NM) lost. (UPI: *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*).

- Michael Fagan, who twice broke into Buckingham Palace and once intruded into the Queen's bedroom, was committed to a mental hospital (*Inquirer, Herald*).

- Guatemala banned political comment by the press (*Herald*).

- The GAO (UPI: *Globe*; also *USA*) found total radiation exposure among nuclear plant workers up greatly from 1969 to 1980. More workers were exposed but individual doses remained low. The causes: Nuclear Regulatory Commission required work to correct safety defects, aging plants with radioactive corrosion products accumulating, and failure of major plant components.

- An employee error shut down an emergency backup system for four months. Then a reactor operator found out. The Wisconsin company said one of three emergency core-cooling system activation signals was out as was a standby containment cooling system. But other systems would have worked in an emergency (UPI: *Post-Dispatch*).

- The *New York Times* reported France, using US technical help, is going to make a neutron bomb (*Inquirer*). France's production decision has been made. The US denied giving such aid (*Herald*).

- Israel TV interviewed a Lebanese Christian militia commander who found the fuss over the Beirut massacre "much ado about nothing." He had killed 15 Palestinians there and would continue to kill them "all my life." It wasn't really a massacre since it was war (AP: *Globe, Herald*).

- Multimillion-dollar Pentagon weather satellites were nearly inoperable for at least 17 months. They had to use data from less-complex civilian ones. (*LA Times: Inquirer*)

- The Supreme Court did not halt prayer in most public schools. A 1962 study found only a third of US school systems (mostly in the Northeast and South) had school prayer. Of systems replying 91% in the West and 74% in the Midwest had no schools with prayer (*LA Times: Inquirer*).

\* \* \*

Unlike the *Sun*, *USA Today* and other papers, the *Post* doesn't give a weekly update of college football schedules, past results and future schedules.

In contrast to their pro football (when available) and basketball coverage, the *Post's* use of hockey statistics is minimal—the local team's records and a weekly list of the top few scorers. They ignore such team statistics as ability to score or defend during penalties, penalty minutes, and home-away, won-lost records, as well as similar records of individual players. *USA* provides all that and more.

A *Post* plus: widespread, if brief, coverage of non-local major college and pro games. *Post* sports writing at its best achieves insight into what's observed and gleaned from interviews. But it seldom reflects any use of even relatively accessible records. The *Globe's* "Out of Arms Way" analyzed the high cost of obtaining pitchers by signing free agents or by trade, concluding that teams had better develop their own. A chart showing pitchers by cost and won-lost records revealed a mostly dismal output. The *Globe* analyzed the prospects of the Red Sox farm teams, printing hitting and pitching records for all clubs in their system. About a month into the football strike the *Herald* had a chart showing how many teams still had organized practices and how many players showed up.

\* \* \*

# AMERICAN JOURNAL

## David Armstrong

One year ago, I sat in a small apartment in Tucson, interviewing a young woman named Dora Flores. Flores is a refugee from the civil war in El Salvador, a lay religious leader who survived four days in the Arizona desert when smugglers guiding her and 26 other Salvadorans across the Mexican border got lost. Thirteen of the refugees died. Dora and the others, near death from thirst, were carried out of the desert by the U.S. Border Patrol, in an episode that attracted international attention.

Dora Flores' entry into this country was as illegal as it was dramatic. Fearing for her life if she was deported to El Salvador, Flores applied for political asylum in what lawyers said could be a landmark case. If Flores was granted asylum, they reasoned, it could signal a changed status for the estimated 500,000 Salvadorans living underground in the United States.

Flores' argument was compelling. Far-right death squads had already murdered 48 of the 60 students in her high school graduating class. As a catechist who taught peasants how to read and cared about their future, Flores' own future in her homeland was at risk. She wanted to say here. She needed, she said, to stay.

She has—though not by being granted asylum, as I discovered when I inquired about Dora recently. Fearing a long court battle with no guarantee of

success, Dora Flores married her Salvadoran-born boyfriend, who was already a legal resident here, last spring. That means, Dora's attorney, Suzanne Rabe, told me, that Dora will be allowed to stay.

So, Dora Flores' life as a political figure—"a persecuted person," as she described herself—appears to be over. No one who hasn't gone through what Dora Flores has can blame her for her decision. Unfortunately, a half-million other Salvadorans remain here illegally, most without similar options. For them, the issue of political asylum still burns with a special brightness.

In September, their hopes of asylum were dealt a blow when a U.S. immigration judge denied political asylum to two Salvadoran men. Attorneys for the National Lawyers Guild argued that the two, as young, able-bodied, unemployed males, would face immediate suspicion as leftist guerrillas if they were shipped home.

Guild lawyer Mark Van Der Hout commented acidly on the decision telling the *Guardian* newspaper that, "We are disappointed, but truthfully, we are not surprised. When we look at political asylum, who gets in and who doesn't, we can see very clearly that determinations are made not on a legal basis, but rather a political basis. If you're a Romanian gymnast, or a Soviet ballerina, or a Chinese tennis player, you're going to get political

## ART HOPPE

By far and away the happiest misanthrope in history was a young man named Garrison Grommet. Like many Americans, Grommet didn't care much for people. But he loved machines.

His very favorite machine, of course, was his television machine. Like his fellow Americans, he watched his television machine an average of more than seven hours a day.

It was a good machine. It made him laugh; it made him sad; it stimulated his wrath, his fears and his hopes. "It really makes me feel alive," he would say happily to himself.

Naturally, he also had a videotape machine which would watch his television machine when he was away and a video game machine on which his little shooting machines would shoot down thousands of invading space machines. That was fun.

On weekends, he would often drive about in his automobile machine listening to his radio machine and, safely encased in steel and glass, vent his hostilities on his fellow Americans similarly safely encased in their steel and glass machines.

He ate from vending machines, banked through automatic teller machines, gambled (rarely) on slot machines, bought his subway tickets from a ticket machine and punched into work on a time card machine.

Needless to say, Grommet was a computer programmer. He liked being ordered about by his computer terminal machine and performing the tasks the machine assigned him. Once, he thought he caught a glimpse of his boss on a Teleconference machine, but he wasn't sure which of the men in machine-made suits was which.

All went smoothly for years until one evening the change machine in the subway broke down. Grommet approached the bored-looking man in the ticket booth to complain.

"Yes?" said the man.

"Erk," croaked Grommet hopefully. "Akkk. Arggghh . . ."

When the man threatened to call the police, Grommet skittered up the steps to the street and began the long walk home. On the way, he realized he had forgotten how to talk. He would have to learn again or they might lock him up. Without a television machine!

But to whom would he talk? Wait! Not to whom, but to what! And as soon as he entered the door, he picked up the telephone machine and dialed a number at random. As might be expected, his call was answered:

"Sorry, no one's home. If you would care to leave a message . . ."

So Grommet's sanity was preserved. He simply dialed his way through the telephone book, practicing talking to recording machines. He began by breathing heavily (which produced a stir in many a home) and progressed through "Hi, there" to "Have a nice day."

He was just getting fluent again when disaster struck. On dialing "Lysurgis, Geo.," a strange-sounding voice answered: "Hello?" When Grommet understandably remained silent, the voice said testily, "Speak up, damn it, cat got your tongue?"

"I was waiting for the beep," Grommet said apologetically.

"Beep? What are you, some kind of nut? Who is this, anyway?"

My God, thought Grommet, a human being had answered his telephone machine! With that, something inside him snapped.

"Sorry," he intoned, "no one's home. If you would care to leave a message . . ."

Doctors at the Daffodil Dell Home for the Serene are not quite certain from what delusion Grommet suffers. He wanders around all day mournfully saying, "Beep?" "Beep?" "Beep?"

He seems quite happy, though, when some kind soul gives him a message. In fact, you can see his eyes light up.

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asylum in the U.S. If you're from El Salvador or from Guatemala, you are not going to get it."

According to U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service regulations, refugees must prove they will be persecuted on the basis of race, religion, nationality or political opinions in their homeland to be given asylum here. Nearly all Salvadorans in this country are classified by the INS as economic refugees who supposedly come here only to look for jobs, shutting them off from political asylum. Consequently, from 500 to 100 Salvadorans are deported every month.

The deportees return to a country in which more than 35,000 people have died in political violence since 1979. According to the Legal Aid Society of the Salvadoran Catholic Church, there were 474 political deaths in El Salvador this September alone. That was shortly after the Reagan administration told Congress that the human rights situation in El Salvador was much improved. Since then, 15 civilian leftist leaders have been kidnapped. Is it

any wonder that so many Salvadorans want to leave El Salvador?

And so they continue to come, some of them to fates as horrifying as the ordeal that befell Dora Flores and her friends in the desert. In October, four Salvadoran refugees suffocated in a sealed tractor-trailer rig in Texas when smugglers abandoned them. There will be other deaths and more scared, luckless refugees who live here outside the law, until the INS officially recognizes the obvious: that they are political refugees with an urgent need for legal asylum.

# THE NEW RIGHT MOVES ON

**Lynn Orr**

One of the clearest messages in the mid-term election returns is that the New Right's "social issues" have no future in Washington. Democratic gains in the House and the decisive defeat of numerous conservative candidates backed by Sen. Jesse Helms and the National Conservative Political Action Committee mean that such issues as school prayer and abortion will not be acted upon at the national level.

However, this does not mean that these delicate and explosive issues will disappear from the politi-

cal scene. It only means that the focus of the struggles will shift from Congress back to the state capitals and local school boards where the New Right has achieved its most notable gains.

Said Joseph Scheidler, executive director of the Pro-Life Action League in Chicago, "The new direction is to concentrate on the grassroots issues such as city ordinances, state laws and federal laws that would take a simple majority vote and to kind of set aside the human life amendment for the time being." Scheidler acknowledged that there aren't the votes in the new Congress to pass the pro-life amendment.

The shift, in fact, was already underway as a result of the defeats of school prayer and anti-abortion legislation during the last session of Congress. With the November congressional election pointing the way, New Right activists are more than ever aware that their road to success leads not to Washington, but back to grassroots organizations and ferment.

Such a shift no doubt will find support in the Reagan administration, which has been roundly criticized by conservatives for not taking a more forceful position on the efforts to pass national legislation on abortion and school issues. President Reagan has stated his preference for resolving such issues at the local level, and has promised to use the White House as a "bully pulpit" to push for them, so long as they do not interfere with his economic agenda.

The signs of the shift back to local turf are appearing everywhere:

- In Berkeley, California, three area hospitals have restricted abortions following pressure from anti-abortion groups and hospital nurses reluctant to assist in abortions.

The Pro-Life Action League in Chicago, says Scheidler, is "building an army of volunteers in every community in the country" to distribute an anti-abortion brochure called "The American Holocaust." "We're also trying to get more activists to go to the clinics with counselors and stop abortions before they take place," he said. "We stopped as many as ten abortions in a single morning at one clinic in Chicago."

- In Akron, Ohio, the spotlight is on a 1978 city ordinance requiring doctors to read an extensive list of warnings to women seeking abortions, including the statements that life begins at inception and that the fetus may be sensitive to pain. Those opposing the ordinance hope the U.S. Supreme Court, which agreed to hear the case this fall, will invalidate the local law, while pro-life forces throughout the country are looking for the court's green light to enact similar ordinances elsewhere.

- Challenges to public library materials throughout the country jumped threefold to 900 in 1980-81 through September, according to the American Library Association, which expects the 1981-82 level to cross 1,000. In Texas, where school textbooks are adopted on a statewide basis, more than 900 pages of objections to proposed textbooks were filed last year, 600 of them by Educational Re-

search Analysts, New Right activists Mel and Norma Gabler's firm. A 1980 nationwide survey by education groups reported that the recent increase in state-level challenges to textbooks was attributed to the efforts of the Gablers and New Right activists.

- The "Stop Textbook Censorship" committee, headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota, works on a less formal basis. To stem the perceived erosion of basic values in textbooks, committee members give presentations, hold workshops on "values clarification" and "sex education materials" and individually talk to teachers to "show them how some-

## Depression Notes

Even thrift shops are feeling the pinch. In southern California, the Salvation Army reports business is down eight percent. One official says these days, people can't even afford used goods. Goodwill says its problems are compounded by a dropoff in donations: people are holding on to their old furniture and clothing. And in Toledo, one thrift shop has even started promoting business with . . . used fashion shows.

How bad off is the banking industry? It's so bad that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation is opening local offices to help close out more than one hundred failed banks. The FDIC will cut the ribbon at the first regional liquidation office in New York in November. By next June, it plans to have offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas and San Francisco. The offices will convert the assets of failed banks to cash and distribute the recovered monies to creditors and shareholders.

In Hempstead, Long Island, more than 4500 people lined up for 296 jobs; 1000 of them stood in line for up to 7 1/2 hours.

In a survey of 48 cities, it was discovered that the higher the rate of unemployment, the greater the decline in federal aid and the greater the likelihood that a city has cut services.

The demand for emergency food assistance in New York City has become so great that food programs no longer allow their phone numbers or addresses to be given out.

Business failures surged in September to the highest level for any year since 1933.

Mike Rush, a reporter for WRFG community radio in Atlanta, says that a federal agent there attempted to recruit him to inform on local political demonstrations.

According to Rush, Federal Protective Service officer J.S. Runions approached him at a July 3 anti-draft rally outside the federal building on Peachtree Street. The Federal Protective Service, a subdivision of the General Services Administration, is charged with protecting federal buildings throughout the country.

Rush said that Runions asked him about the groups involved in the demonstration and requested to hear the tape Rush had made of the event. When Rush replied that it would be unethical for him to let Runions hear his tape, the officer invited Rush back to his office.

At Runions' office, the agent told Rush that most of the participants in the anti-draft demonstration were "communists." He said he kept files on organizations (but stressed not individuals) and that he wanted to know about future demonstrations in the area. He gave Rush his business card, adding, "If there's anything I can do, give me a call." He then told Rush that if anyone questioned him about his visit with Runions, to "tell them we didn't get along—I'll back you up."

When asked about Runions' assertion that he kept files on political groups, a spokesman for the Federal Protective Service in Washington said that intelligence gathering was not the agency's "function, mission or goal." "We don't want to collect intelligence," the spokesman said. "It's a real pain involving tremendous manpower and dollar costs." He said that local FPS officers do share information with local police, especially before major demonstrations. "We have eleven autonomous regions," he added. "Who knows what schemes they cook up in their minds."

—Organizing Notes



thing they may be teaching is harmful to children," according to national chairwoman Terry Todd. Todd argues that textbooks have been censored to omit "traditional values" such as "respect for parents and respect for capitalism as something good." Her group is part of activist Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum, a self-described "network of parents providing an alternative to the National Education Association," with chapters in all 50 states.

• After losing a highly publicized state court battle, the Institute for Scientific Creationism in southern California is intensifying pressure on textbook publishers for inclusion of the Biblical theory of the universe's creation in future textbooks.

To those opposed to the activities of the New

Right, the shift to local battlegrounds comes as no surprise. But opponents fear the New Right's ability to pull national muscle and financial resources into local campaigns gives them a distinct advantage.

"Everybody expects the action is going to shift to the state level," says Daisy Voigt, media relations coordinator for Planned Parenthood in Washington, D.C.

"Schools are one place where people can see some changes," agrees Barbara Parker, director of the National Schools and Libraries Project of People for the American Way. "If they can elect their own to school boards, many of their battles will be won for them in advance. They're concentrating on

local issues, because that's where they've had their successes."

"They're adaptable enough to regroup and take a new tack," says Daniel Maguire, Marquette University professor and author of "The New Subversives." He believes the local arena, rather than the federal legislature and court structure, will be more willing to concede some arguments to the New Right.

"In court, if one of the litigants wants something that is wrong, you don't give them anything. But elsewhere we tend to compromise. It's easier to make accommodations. It's the American sense of fair play that will give them an advantage."

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## LIFE & RELATED SUBJECTS

**Question:** What do Aristotle, Napoleon, Beethoven, Abraham Lincoln, Leonardo da Vinci and King Henry IV have in common?

**Answer:** They are all dead.

Just kidding. What these famous people have in common is that they were all left-handed. (Actually, I'm not sure that they were, but it's traditional to begin articles like this with a list of famous people who were left-handed, and I figured nobody would know the difference if I just made the list up instead of wasting a lot of valuable time digging up actual facts.)

Scientists tell us that one out of every five or 10 Americans is left-handed, which means that if you are an American, you could be left-handed. Here's how to tell: Take a pen and a piece of paper, and write "Bob took umbrage at his duck."

Now examine the piece of paper. If there are words on it, you are right-handed. If there are no words on it, you are left-handed, because you know that whenever you write anything you get ink smeared all over your hand, and you're damned if you'll get ink smeared on your hand just because some newspaper columnist told you to write an idiot sentence.

Left-handed people hate to write. I am left-handed, and the lowest point in my educational career, except for when I had to memorize the three major bones of the inner ear (the hammer, the anvil and the stirrup) was in the third grade, when I was supposed to learn handwriting. The teacher, Miss Kennelly, started us out writing the letter "O" over and over and over. We used that elementary-school paper with the huge spaces between the lines, so you had to make your "O" the

size of a medium pizza. We spent days on "O." Miss Kennelly was obsessed with it. Evidently she felt that when we got out of school our business correspondence would read like this:

Dear Sirs:

000000. 000 0000  
000000000000 00000? 000000  
000000 00000; 0000, 0000, 000  
00000 00000 000000 00000  
000000000000000000, 0000000  
000000 000. 00000! 0000 000  
0000000.

Sincerely Ours,

Dave Barry

You were supposed to hold your hand in a certain way, position your paper in a certain way, and get your "O" to slant in a certain direction. Apparently all of this was mandated by federal law, because Miss Kennelly was extremely strict about it. After a couple of days, all the other kids went on to "A," but I could never get "O" right. Miss Kennelly used to write snide remarks about my handwriting on my report card:

"David is the proper size for his age and gets along well with one or two of the other children. It would be a moderate pleasure to have him in class except that he once used a magnifying glass to set fire to the papier-mâché Eskimo village and his handwriting looks like dog waste."

I felt terribly inferior about my handwriting. I figured I would never do as well in life as my classmates. Now, of course, I look back on those childish feelings and laugh. I'm sure that my classmates' handwriting has nothing to do with the fact that they are all presidents of major corporations and I am not.

To understand why some people are left-handed and some are right-handed, you have to understand how the human brain works. The brain is a spongy object that looks very much like a cauliflower. In fact, I strongly suspect that cauliflowers are brains, probably taken from small woodland creatures, such as woodchucks. They are referred to in the grocery business as "cauliflowers" because if they were referred to as "woodchuck brains" people wouldn't serve them as hors d'oeuvres with onion dip.

Scientists (never mind which ones) tell us that the left side of the brain controls the right side of the body, and the right side of the brain controls the left side of the body, which is a pretty stupid system, but there you have it. The two sides of the brain are completely different. The left side of the brain is interested in logic, mathematics, tax law, stamp collecting and lawn care. The right side is interested in sex and drinking. The two sides often disagree about what the body should do, which results in headaches.

What all this means is that if you are left-handed, you are dominated by the right side of your brain, which means you will never succeed in the lawn-care business, if you get my drift. But you shouldn't feel bad about your left-handedness, even though for the rest of your life you will have trouble with handwriting, scissors, gravy ladles, school writing desks, catchers' mitts, gearshifts and many, many other objects designed for righthanded people. Ignore these minor inconveniences, and remember the famous dead people who were left-handed but succeeded anyway. I'm sure there were some.

Feature Associates

Dave Barry



# THE 1982 BUDGET BOWL

It is budget-crisis time again, gentle reader. If you find yourself becoming increasingly confused by the story as it unravels in your daily paper, don't feel badly. You are no worse off than the mayor or city council. It may help, however, to keep a few things in mind as this story develops:

- Not every fact is a necessarily a true fact. For example, the mayor and (upon his advice) the McNamara task force are using a projected deficit figure of about \$110 million. This is a lot of money. But the Post's Juan Williams, never one to take the Barry administration at its word, checked with the budget people at the three agencies which the mayor said were doing most of the over-spending. Mike Hagstad at the Department of Corrections told Williams: "I don't know what the hell they're talking about. I check these numbers every day and we don't show any deficit for this year. If they can go and put out numbers without talking to people first and making sense than I feel free to say someone must be playing games." Sharon Gilliam at the Department of Housing and Community Development said "We don't have any projected deficit." Two officials at the Department of Human Services made much the same comment.

The mayor's press secretary said: "Why don't you trust us?" Well, for one thing, a few days later Hagstad was fired and the mayor was proclaiming that the city would henceforth speak with "one voice." Those employees who didn't toe the line "can look for another job."

- Another reason not to trust the mayor — or members of the city council for that matter — is that no one seems to be able to resist the opportunity to play politics with each fact, or alleged fact, as it develops. Thus we find the mayor making his dire prediction in tandem with a reiteration of a promise that he will propose no new tax increase and that there will be no layoffs of city workers over the next four years. This might be theoretically possible if we all paid \$700 to register our car each year, \$2 each time we stopped by a parking meter, and \$3 a ride for Metro (these are user fees, folks, not taxes) but more realistically one would think that a responsible mayor would consider both tax increases and layoffs if the budget prediction is correct.

Meanwhile, Barry appears to be devoting some of his efforts to trying to lay off John Wilson as chair of the council's revenue and finance committee, an exception Barry is willing to make to his no-RIF policy because of Wilson's repeated skepticism over the mayor's financial pronouncements.

There is nothing to be gained by the voters here. Wilson's prognostications are sometimes off base as well, but there is some value in establishing a parity in hyperbole and Wilson balances the mayor nicely in this regard.

However, Wilson is no neophyte when it comes to playing budget poli-

tics. Thus it comes as no surprise to find him announcing that he will not propose any new taxes unless the mayor supports them first, something the mayor says he will not do. Says Wilson, "The mayor is in a totally irresponsible posture right now. He understands enough to know that somebody is going to have to be laid

## 13 Ways to Save Money

1. Stop building Metro. It should now be clear to even Metro's most ardent enthusiasts that the subway was a luxury item that was fiscally unjustifiable. The more we build the deeper into the hole we get.

2. Unload the convention center. This is another fiscal white elephant the city doesn't need. It might make a nice shopping mall, however.

3. End direct and indirect subsidies to developers. Years of swilling at the city's fiscal keg by the business community has left the city in a worse financial situation than previously. While some subsidies may be desirable, the city's cost accounting in these matters is so misleading that we seldom know which they are. For example, the city boasts of a new office building downtown improving the tax base, but can't tell us what it means in terms of new public services required, the effect of having more non-taxpaying suburbanites coming to town every day, the jobs lost to local residents through the "upgrading" of the site and the true costs of any benefits given the developer ranging from building Metro to a pro-rata share of Jim Gibson's salary.

4. Abolish zoning laws as they now exist and require any increase in intensity of use or density of new structures be approved by the city council. Constant rezoning, escalating PUDS, and endless planning have made the principle of zoning a fraud in this town. We should make present use the maximum permissible use and require that the full costs of any application to change that use be borne in full by the applicant. By doing this, we could not only save what is left of the city, but could do away with the zoning commission and most of the planning department as well.

5. Redesign the bus system so that routes are rationalized, duplication eliminated, and high-subsidy segments replaced by subsidized taxis or neighborhood shuttle buses. Two main ingredients of a redesigned bus system would be physically exclusive bus lanes along major arteries (thus increasing the number of passengers a bus driver can carry in a day) and a trade-off between reduced service and improved scheduling. Service could be reduced in some instances if schedules were reliable. As it is, the system seems to operate on the premise that if you have enough buses on the street, some of them will get through.

6. Decentralize the city government. Really decentralize it. Start with the school system (See Dennis Doyle's article last issue) and move on from there. One of the real costs of government is an inefficiency of scale.

7. Cut supervisors and leave the workers in the field. Give increased responsibility to lower level staff. Require the mayor to report regularly on the city's boss-worker ratio. Gross employment figures mean little if the government is just getting more and more top-heavy.

8. Contract out services to non-profit agencies like Friendship House that have proved they can do the job.

9. Accept bids from Neighborhood Commissions and other groups that want to assume governmental functions.

10. Empty our jails of many of the persons not guilty of committing violent crimes and assign them to alternative rehabilitation and restitution programs.

11. Require that every new office building provide housing as well. (See article this issue)

12. Reduce the number of new laws passed and the number of old laws retained on the books.

13. Make it do, use it up, do without.



off and somebody's taxes are going to have to be increased. To say he's not going to do either one of those things is irresponsible."

Taking a slightly more optimistic view is former city auditor Matt Watson who told Williams, "The mayor may have blown up the numbers to create a worst-case situation. That would allow him to say how well he did after the deficit was averted — if there ever was a deficit."

• Politicians, as one can see from the foregoing, do not behave well at times like these. Interestingly, this can often be self-defeating. Barry, for example, seems intent on proving to people once more what he spent an entire campaign trying to disprove — that he plays fast and loose with figures and facts. Thus the ordinary citizen loses sight of the fact that while someone like the mayor may not handle the deficit well, he is not necessarily to blame for it. In this case, a five or six percent shortfall in the midst of a depression, with its effects on sales, property and income taxes, is discouraging but not a sign of incompetence. Unfortunately, Barry seems to be once again taking a situation where he should have the sympathy of the voters and turning it into one in which he has their distrust.

• While \$110 million seems like a lot of money, the McNamara report on metro area finances suggests that it is still manageable. The McNamara group, for example, projects a \$257

shortfall by 1987, but points out that this could be reduced by \$92 million if the workforce of the city government were cut 2% a year between now and then, by \$55 million if the city is not forced to take on the financial responsibility of St. Elizabeths and by \$90 million if the city assumed the full cost of aid to dependent children while the federal government assumed the full cost of Medicaid. Do all three and you've reduced the 1987 deficit to \$20 million.

• Taxes and RIFs are considered the most politically unpalatable approach to handling deficits. Thus politicians are scrambling around for alternative means of cutting red ink. It is important to note that in some cases, no money is saved at all. You simply end up paying a different organization or you pay in user fees what used to come out of taxes. While some of this may be necessary, it is also generally true that such fiscal sleights-of-hand tend to shift governmental benefits further towards those who can afford to pay for them. The McNamara report, for example, recommends that Metro fares be increased and that discounted flash passes be sold to the poor. This is theoretically a good idea, but it doesn't address the question, for example, of where and when the reduced-price flash passes will be sold. Further, what if this principle is extended to a dozen different services including public swimming pools? One can

imagine the less wealthy using up their Metro discount in order to make an extra trip to the office where the low-price swimming pool tickets are sold and so forth. There is an element of stigma involved here as well. And time. And the fact that even for the poor, it may mean more money out of pocket.

The McNamara report suggests eight alternative fiscal approaches including contracting out, franchises, vouchers, volunteers, and dispersal to the private marketplace of formerly governmental activities.

Some of these are clearly a way for government to duck its responsibilities. On the other hand, we should remember that in some cases we are already engaged in alternative approaches and accept them as normal.

For example, much of the anti-poverty effort involved a contracting out of services to non-profit organizations. Detroit is reporting considerable success using 15,000 volunteers in police ministrations. And volunteers spend countless hours in the DC schools and elsewhere. We tend to ignore these phenomenon because often they don't fit neatly into quantifiable analysis, but since we are entering an era when we may once again just have to do things without writing reports about them, maybe this isn't so bad. In case, we should keep in mind, no matter what the politicians say, that there is more than one way to skin a budget. —s.s.

## Shelters and Day Centers for the Homeless

### Services to Men

**Shelter and Rehabilitation Program, Council of Churches.** Shelter, showers, and meals for 150-160 men (per shelter) 19 years and up. Nightly, 7:30 PM-7:00 AM. Blair School, 611 I Street NE (call 727-3935) and Pierce School, 1355 G Street NE (727-6899).

**Gospel Mission.** Shelter, morning and evening meals for 151 men. \$2/night. Nightly, 6:30 PM-7:00 AM. 810 Fifth Street NW. Call 842-1731.

**Central Union Mission.** Shelter, evening and morning meals for about 90 men and 10 women. Nightly, 6:30 PM-6:00 AM (sign-in, 6:30 PM-7:30 PM). 1631 Fourteenth Street NW. Call 628-4349.

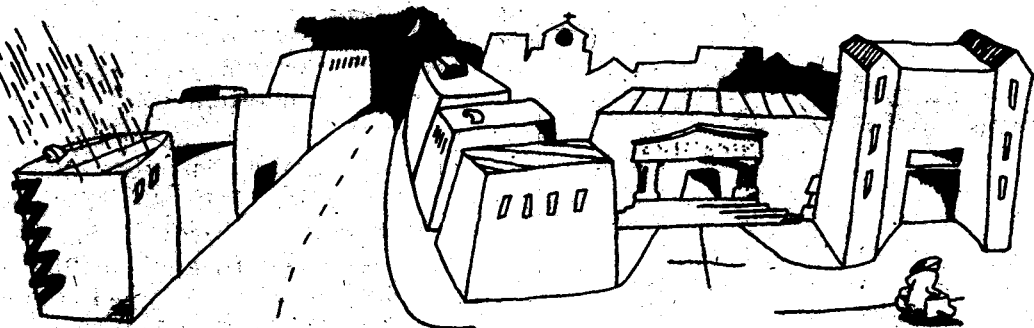
**Lutheran Resources for the Homeless.** Shelter, lunch, jobs, housing advice, and aid with public, Social Security, veterans and other benefits. 10:00 AM-4:00 PM weekdays. 611 I Street NE. Call 546-4170.

**Drop-in Center.** Daily services to 35 elderly men, 7:00 AM-6:00 PM; shower and laundry services for all ages, noon-3:00 PM every other day; clothing distributed, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Sunday and Thursday; evening meal for 400 people, daily. 632 G Street NW. Call 628-6309.

**St. Francis Catholic Worker House.** Room for 12 men and women. Call before coming. Daily, 24 hours. 1115 Sixth Street NW. Call 842-3684.

**House of Laumeze.** Room for six men. Call ahead. Daily, 24 hours. 1330 Monroe Street NW. Call 232-0421.

**St. Alloysius/St. Vincent de Paul Drop-in Center.** Lunch, clothing, and bus tokens. Serves men and women. 10:00 AM-2:00 PM weekdays, noon-3:00 PM Sundays. 900 North Capitol Street. Call 842-1112.



### Services to Women

**Mt. Carmel House.** Shelter, showers, and morning meal for 42 women. Nightly, 6:00 PM-9:00 AM. 471 G Place NW. Call 289-6315.

**House of Ruth.** Shelter, showers, meals, and counseling for 67 women. Daily, 24 hours. 651 Tenth Street NE. Call 547-2600.

**Sarah House.** Shelter, showers, evening and morning meals for 15 women. Nightly, 6:00 PM-8:00 AM. 1329 N Street NW. Call 232-6167.

**Hannah House.** Shelter, showers, evening and morning meals for 20 women. Nightly, 6:00 PM-8:00 AM. 612 M Street NW. Call 289-4840.

**Luther Place Temporary Emergency Shelter.** Shelter and breakfast for 15 women. Nightly, 8:00 PM-7:00 AM. 1227 Vermont Avenue NW.

**Rachel's Women Center.** Shelter, a meal, and entertainment during the day for women. 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, Wednesday-Sunday. 1006 M Street NW. Call 789-9474.

**My Sister's Place.** A place of refuge to abused, battered women and children. Call 529-5991.

### Services to Families

**Pitts Hotel.** Shelter and meals. Call ahead; a referral from a Department of Human Services case worker is necessary. Intake, 8:15 AM-8:00 PM. (after these hours call 24-Hour Emergency Protective Services, 727-0995). 1451 Belmont Street NW. Call 673-4595.

**St. Francis Hospitality House.** Shelter for five or six families. A referral is required. 503 Rock Creek Church Road NW. Call 722-4481.

**House of Imogene.** Shelter for up to 35 people (several families, a number of women and men). Call ahead; no walk-ins accepted. 214 P Street NW. Call 797-7460.

**Community of Hope.** Shelter for families who can afford rental fees (based on income). Families are asked to use the Community's general health care, employment, housing, and legal counseling services. 1417 Belmont Street NW. Call 232-9091.

**Salvation Army Emergency Housing.** Shelter and meals for single women and/or women with children. Room for 10 women and 2 children (2 cribs on hand). Intake 8:30 AM-4:00 PM. 504 Fifth Street NW. Call 783-4050.

Art by Jim Richter



# CHARLES McDOWELL

The lame-infratstructure session of the 97th Congress opened the other day and went straight to work to save the economy. Actually, it was the lame-duck session. I threw in "infra-structure" as a sort of joke, like the members' saying they were here to save the economy.

Congress is as hung up on the word "infra-structure" as the press is on "lame duck." Between the two phrases, which have filled up the news reports in recent days, you get a picture of a bunch of disabled fowl quacking at each other in the basement of a collapsing building.

So let's understand the language we are using. A lame duck, says William Safire's Political Dictionary, is "an officeholder whose power is diminished because he is soon to leave office." The term came to America in the 18th century from Britain, where it meant bankrupt businessman. By 1830, Americans were using "lame duck" to

mean a politician who was serving out his last term in office.

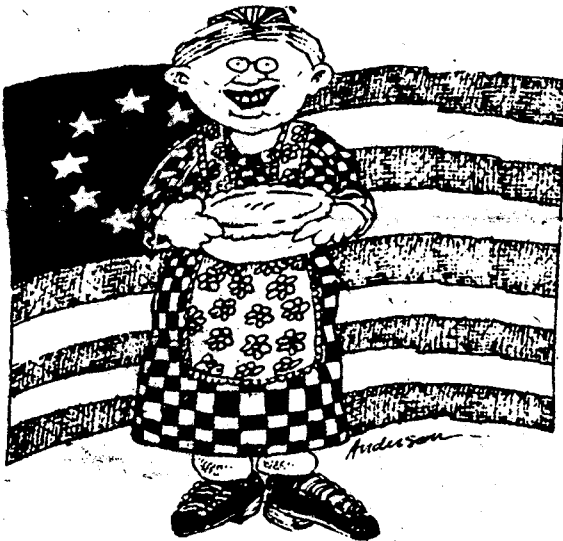
Congressional lame ducks were fairly familiar until 1933 because, until then, the Congress elected in November did not take office until March. The old Congress seemed to go on and on; there was even a regularly scheduled session after the election and before the will of the voters was allowed to take effect. The 20th Amendment, ratified in 1933, shifted the opening of the new Congress to January. The current lame-duck session was called for by President Reagan, who believed there was a lot Congress ought to do to bolster his economic program before it (Congress) went out of business.

What Congress is going to do is not necessarily what the president originally had in mind. He was thinking of things like cutting spending and maybe taxes. Congress is going to

raise the tax on gasoline and spend the extra money to repair roads and bridges. That brings us to the infra-structure. The infrastructure, it turns out, is roads and bridges. Fixing up the infrastructure not only gives Congress an impressive word to use but is supposed to make jobs for some of the millions of people who are out of work. The Democrats and the Republicans seem to like the idea and even the president has come around to it.

There are some unsettling reports, including one from the chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors — that fixing up the infrastructure will not help unskilled workers who need jobs the worst, that raising the gasoline tax by five cents a gallon probably will knock a lot of people out of work in the end, and that the effect on the economy might well be counter-productive.

[Please turn to next page]



## Apple Pie

Bernard Schwartz and John Flowers, both California psychologists, have come up some important new categories of people with mental problems, to wit:

- Reverse paranoids: people who suffer from the belief that they're following or persecuting someone else.
- Inverse paranoids: people who feel they're not good enough to be followed or persecuted by anyone.
- Metaphiliacs: those who suffer from an unending search for meaning.
- Pre-traumatic stress syndrome sufferers: those who are anxious because they feel nothing traumatic has happened to them — yet.

Firstair Airline, a new Miami company, will begin all-frills service between New York and Florida next year. Travelers will be transported by limousine to the airport, where they'll board a plane staffed with a hair-dresser, manicurist, secretary, stock ticker and telephone. Cost of the

flight will be \$625 one-way, or about five times as much as the cheapest competition.

FBI officials say four outlaw motorcycles gangs are moving in on underworld operations formerly controlled by the Mafia. And with such lucrative activities as drugs, loan sharking, massage parlors and porno shops at stake, the FBI is predicting a biker-mob war. The four gangs were identified as the Pagans, the Hell's Angels, the Banditos and the Outlaws. FBI organized crime expert Sean McWeeney says the gangs are moving into areas of the country like Arizona and California where the mob has been weakened by federal prosecutions.

Paul McCartney has turned into a political activist. The usually apolitical ex-Beatle sent Margaret Thatcher a telegram last month advising her to learn a lesson from the coal miner's strike of 1974. That strike brought down the government of conservative Edward Heath. Now British nurses are on strike and McCartney told Thatcher, "What the miners did to Ted Heath, the nurses will do to you." A McCartney aide explained the singer's newfound activism this way: "His mum used to be a nurse."

What was the real reason for the Soviet Union's latest venture into space? According to several European papers, the flight was made to see if women can get pregnant while in orbit. One Swiss publication claimed that "sex was the main reason" for Cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya being picked for the mission. Other publi-

cations conjured up the image of Svetlana making a "flying love nest" out of her private quarters aboard the space station.

The Soviets are accusing the western press of libeling Svetlana, whom the Soviets refer to as a "model Russian woman."

More of your grocery money last year went for food packaging than for food. The Agriculture Department says net farm income dropped in 1981 to 19.6 billion dollars, while the cost of packaging what comes off the farm soared to 23-billion. The USDA says that trend is likely to continue this year.

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A survey of teenagers in Cleveland has turned up some surprising answers about what books they would like their parents to read. The number one choice was "In Cold Blood," Truman Capote's account of the brutal murder of a midwestern farm family. Susan Berlin, the librarian who conducted the survey, says the book is very popular with teenagers "probably because it is such a well-written documentary." Other suggested titles for parental reading include "Go Ask Alice," which deals with drug abuse, "I'm OK, You're OK," the pop psychology primer, and such classics as "Of Mice and Men" and "The Old Man and the Sea."

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A pair of New Yorkers have recorded "Tin Pan Apple"—six hours of New York noises on tape, including trash collection, traffic tie-ups, sirens and voices off the street. Charles Stettler and Lynda West say they've sold some 50-thousand tapes and report the cassettes are hot items at Bloomingdale's and Macy's.

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Rock musician Peter Criss's divorce has set off a chain of lawsuits. Criss's ex-wife had hired Marvin Mitchelson to represent her, but she didn't like the settlement and filed a five-million-dollar malpractice suit against him. Mitchelson hired lawyer Roy Cohn to defend him and then filed his own lawsuit, against Connecticut lawyer Gary Cohen because he helped handle the Criss divorce. Gary Cohen has now filed yet another suit, against Roy Cohn. Roy Cohn hasn't filed any lawsuits yet, and his comment on the divorced Mrs. Criss: "I never saw her, I never spoke to her, and this suit's going to end up in the ashcan."



But the members of Congress, lame ducks and high flyers alike, want to do something. The new tax for the infrastructure looks like it.

President Reagan is not likely to get several things he would like to have from Congress — an advancement of the 1983 tax cut, more spending cuts in social programs, full spending for defense — because some of the lame ducks are lame ducks because they supported him on that course in the past.

The lame-duck count in the House of Representatives comes to a net loss of 26 Republicans. But a total of 79 members, Republicans and Democrats, will be leaving at the end of this session.

I went to the House gallery to watch the members, lame and otherwise, begin the session. Everyone was in a remarkably good humor. Millicent Fenwick had on a bright red suit, a new hairdo and a relaxed smile. Another lame duck who looked pretty good was James Blanchard, a 40-year-old Democrat from Michigan. He just won the governorship. He made a speech at the beginning of the session, saying Michigan has more unemployed people than Wyoming, Vermont or Delaware has residents.

Henry Hyde of Illinois, a Republican and not a lame duck, made a speech in which he pretended to con-

ciliate the Democrats. He said the Democrats did not use demagoguery or dirty tactics to frighten the voters about Social Security. The Democrats were absolutely fair about it, he said. Then Hyde rolled his eyes to heaven and said, "If I'm lying, may a bolt of lightning come down and strike me dead."

With that, he ran away from the rostrum and covered his head with his arms. His Republican colleagues in the front rows crouched and covered their heads, too.

So the lame-duck session of Congress got started in standard good nature.

[Richmond Times-Dispatch]

A reasonably keen Washington observer remarked after the election, "Just think how well the Democrats would have done if they had had a couple of programs." He was right. I ran into one of the Democratic congressional contenders last spring. He had announced, he was running hard and he had in hand a handsome brochure full of blow-dry photos and blow-dry promises. "What brings you to Washington?" I asked. "I've come to find out what the issues are," he replied. Funny thing is, the guy won.

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The media, especially the cathode clones, kept talking about the election being a referendum on Ronald Reagan. You had to look on the jump page of your local newspaper to discover that a senator who lost also had his name mentioned in a prominent gangster trial or that a would-be governor who lost hadn't paid any taxes recently. As usual, the national media assumed that the parochialism of the voters was the same theirs, namely the parochialism of the capital. In fact, little a president can do can match the chaos that can be caused in a congressional district when, as happened in Virginia this year, it was revealed that the governor had secret plans for building a new prison there.

Not only do local issues interfere mightily with so-called "national referendums," but the inertia of incumbency does as well. To get a true referendum you have to find a district with no incumbents and no local issues. Good luck.

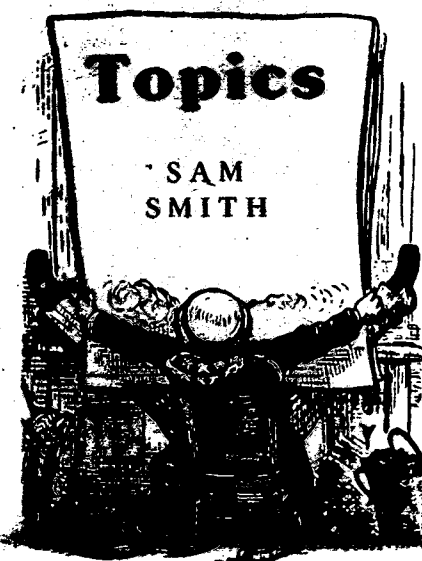
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The most important unnoted result of the election: it proved that an ex-astronaut (in this case Senator Schmidt of New Mexico) could be beat. One small step for man and so forth.

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Also little noticed about the election: public interest issues did not fare well. This was obscured by the attention given the wide-spread support for the nuclear freeze.

Of course, the California gun control proposition lost, but so did the phase-out of nuclear plants (Maine), election of utility commissioners (Ohio, Michigan), a utility advisory commission (Missouri), bottle and can deposits (Arizona, California, Colorado, Washington), water conservation regulation



(California), and a roll-back of blue laws (Colorado and Montana).

Meanwhile, conservative law and order propositions passed in New Hampshire, Nevada, Massachusetts, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Missouri.

Public interest and consumer groups won a few victories. Massachusetts voted for future referenda on any nuclear waste dumping or nuclear power plant construction. Nevada supported a consumer advocates office and property-tax exemptions for alternative energy development. Nebraska placed restrictions on nonfamily corporations gobbling up farms and ranches. A proposal to limit state funding of abortions in Alaska was defeated.

And in Washington, DC, voters approved a constitution as part of their effort to obtain statehood for the capital city.

Finally, in Idaho, the big issue was whether denturists (that's a sort of dental technician, not a licensed dentist) should be allowed to install false teeth. The voters said yes.

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Now that we can all settle down to business again, we'll probably be hearing some more about the "flat tax." A couple of points to keep in mind: a progressive income tax and getting rid of loopholes are not necessarily mutually exclusive. A flat tax may be a simple way politically to achieve an end to loopholes, but critics point out that it is, in itself, a giant loophole for those who now pay

a higher percentage of their income in taxes.

Secondly, the progressive income tax is not another case of New Deal skulduggery. Even ancient Athens had one. And when America got its first income tax in 1862, the rates ranged from nothing to 5% depending on income. By 1864 the top rate had been raised to 10%. The tax was initiated to pay for the Civil War, and was abolished in 1872.

So opponents of the flat tax who complain that advocates are trying to take us back to the days of Calvin Coolidge are doing them a disservice. They really mean James Buchanan.

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Washington jargon has gone high-tech. Birds ("hawks" and "doves") are out as are insects ("boll weevils"). The new term for Democrats who like to talk endlessly about getting ahead of the Japanese is "Atari Democrat." Meanwhile, even the beloved National Audubon Society has started counting its Ks. It is computerizing its network of volunteers and reports that 21,000 bird-lovers have already been plugged into its electronic memory at the society's Washington office "to help speed information to volunteers across the country when fast-breaking developments in environmental issues need grass-roots support or opposition." If this catches on, it could dramatically change the nature of national lobbying and politics. The political right, of course, was first to the gate on this, but endemic hacking by public interest and political groups could turn us into a whole nation of Richard Vigueries.

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Foxes in the Chicken Coop Department: The president's choice for energy secretary, Don Hodel, was a moving force behind the decision to build five nuclear power plants in Washington state. Two of the plants have been cancelled and there's a controversy over who should pay the resulting \$7 billion bond debt. Hodel once described the environmental movement as being controlled by a "small, arrogant faction which is dedicated to bringing our society to a halt." .... And the new president of the Legal Services Corporation is Donald Bogard, a lawyer from Indianapolis whose credits include fighting legal services lawyers.



# ON CAMERA

Eric Green

The ad in the newspaper sounded exciting and relevant to my life.

"See yourself on television," it promised, "have a great time while contributing to a needy cause. No experience necessary."

And so, the following week, I was sweating in my newly pressed suit under the hot glare of the television lights. I had claimed a desk center stage, in the first of three rows, one of 25 volunteer "telephone communicators" who would be taking pledges in tonight's telethon for the United Charities Fund, its intriguing motto—"Yes, You Can Help Build A Dream."

"All right, 40 seconds," the producer-director warned, as I anxiously watched for my face to appear on the studio monitor.

"Thirty seconds," she counted down, "get set."

Standing directly in front of me were the telethon's celebrity "personalities," one a tuxedo-clad TV weatherman from another station, the other a morning talk show star. Thanks to my strategic position, every time the camera panned on them, I would be panned too, just as I had planned.

"Fifteen seconds, quiet on the set."

Suddenly, like erupting volcanoes, the telephones began screaming. How could the pledges already be starting, even before we were on air? I picked mine up before the end of the first ring.

"United Charities," I screamed through the din. "May I take your pledge?"

"This is the control room," replied a sour-voice. "Pretend you're talking to somebody."

"Please speak up," I yelled back. "It's noisy in here."

"Make it up," Control Room snarled. "Play-act."

Control Room slammed the phone. I began talking to a dial tone.

"Ready on the set... five, four, three... and we're live."

"Hi there," the weatherman intoned with a huge smile, reading from a teleprompter inside the camera. "Welcome to our fundraising drive for the United Charities Fund. We'll be right back to tonight's outstanding performance of the Boston Pops Orchestra, but first...," and here the teleprompter suggested that he sound "sincere"... "are you people aware of the number of children who go without supper every night... here's Treena with the statistics... Treena... Thanks Paul."

Unfortunately, the co-hosts were blocking my face from appearing on camera, defeating tonight's entire

raison d'être. I leaned over to the right, where I caught the frame of my glasses flicking into camera range. Suddenly, inexorably, the telephones beckoned again.

"Yeah," the first caller was grumbling, "is my car fixed yet?"

"May I take your pledge?"

"Huh, you ain't Billy. Sorry, wrong number." The dial tone returned.

Telephones were singing crazily at all 25 desks. All the volunteers, except me, were totaling pledge after pledge. Maybe it was my stage manner.

"Look at that, Paul," Treena, the personality, read brightly from the teleprompter, "we're at \$1,585 already. Folks, keep it up. Let's beat our goal."

Once more my phones lighted up.

"Haw-haw-haw-haw," laughed the caller, "haw-haw-haw-haw."

At the next desk, a grey-haired woman was scribbling madly, pretending to fill out forms. Maybe it was my particular telephone, perhaps I was in the "test" seat that wasn't meant to receive "live" calls.

"Ma'am, excuse me," I said, noticing her exasperated expression. "Would you like to switch seats. Mine's not so hectic."

The woman offered a wan smile. "Yes, thank you, now maybe I won't have to put up with all these obscenities."

We both rose. On the television monitor, I noticed two people trying to climb over each other's desk, nearly tearing down a papier-mache facade advertising—"United Charities—Build A Dream." The camera switched to a close-up showing the co-hosts pretending to ignore commotion going on off-camera.

I caught my new phone halfway through its first ring. "United Charities," I said expectantly. Now I was sure to be in the flow.

"Yeah, get the damn show back on."

"May I take your pledge?"

"Yeah, cut the crap. Stop interrupting the program."

The next caller was slightly more polite.

"Sure, I'll pledge five cents. What do I get for that."

He sounded slightly drunk.

I searched through the catalogue. "Hello, sir, for 25 dollars, you get a subscription to the United Charities monthly magazine. Shall I put you down for 25 dollars?"

"Sure," the man said, "by the way, which one are you?"

"Your name and address, sir," I said, remembering the warning not to get fresh with the audience.

"Come on," he insisted. "You're in the front row. Aren't you the frosted blond?"

"I'm in the back."

"No, you're not. I can see your lips moving."

"That's not me."

"Yeah, the one with black hair. And glasses. Yeah, I've seen you somewhere before."

I hung up before taking his pledge. Immediately, there was another ring. I let it go twice.

"Control room," snarled a voice. "Keep on talking."

The phone blasted once more.

"United Charities..."

"When's the show starting?"

"Just a few more minutes, sir."

"Quit lying."

Now I was pleading. "Sir, I'm only a volunteer."

"Screw you and this damn station."

And the weird callers continued phoning in until Treena was announcing, much to my amazement, "Folks, we're almost there, another \$1,000 and we will have made our goal of \$50,000. Come on people, I know you can do it."

Only 30 seconds remained in the telethon. Still, anything was possible.

It wasn't until the third ring that I picked up the next phone. This time I was going to play it smart.

"Yeah, I know," I answered, "control booth."

"Is this the telethon?" a male voice was asking. Instinctively, I didn't trust it.

"Yeah, so what."

"I'd like to pledge 1,000 dollars. If I could?"

"Haw-haw-haw-haw. Very funny."

"No, I'm serious," he said. "I believe in what you people are doing."

"What do you take me for, buster?"

"I beg your pardon." The caller sounded stunned.

"Come on pal, I'm on to your kind."

"But I'm only trying to help..."

"Sure you are." And with that I slammed the phone, satisfied that I had at last fended off the nutcases. The hot lights in the studio went dark, and a picture of a symphony orchestra appeared on the monitor. Yes, there had been a few difficult moments. But they paled in comparison to the inner contentment of knowing that I had helped put the United Charities Fund over the top.



GUATEMALA, OCT 13 (AP) — AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTED MONDAY THAT 2600 PEASANTS WERE SLAUGHTERED BY ARMY AND MILITIA UNITS IN AT LEAST 112 OPERATION/ BETWEEN MARCH AND JULY. THE REPORT SAID THERE APPEARED TO BE A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM FOR THE MASS KILLING OF UNARMED CIVILIANS...

PRESIDENT GENERAL RIOS MONTT, WHO OUSTED GENERAL LUCAS GARCIA HAS DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS A "BORN AGAIN" CHRISTIAN...

"CHRISTIANITY IS ALIVE IN GUATEMALA TODAY," THE PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY. "NEVER HAVE SO MANY BIBLES BEEN SOLD AS NOW."

NEW YORK TIMES  
OCTOBER 14, 1982

-Tuli



# FREEZE FACTS

## Will More Nuclear Weapons Increase the Security of the United States?

*The Reagan Administration adamantly argues that we must build thousands of new nuclear weapons, missiles, and aircraft before we will be strong enough to negotiate with the Russians to reduce nuclear weapons.*

- Supporters of a nuclear freeze argue that it is impossible to reduce levels of nuclear weapons while the United States and the Soviet Union engage in an accelerated arms race. Logic dictates that the first step in reducing weapons is to stop building more. The U.S. today has about 30,000 nuclear weapons (strategic and tactical); the Soviets have about 20,000. Both countries have far more than enough for defense. Both countries should adopt a mutual freeze on the testing, production, and future deployment of nuclear weapons and of missiles and new aircraft designed primarily to deliver nuclear weapons. This freeze is viewed as an essential, verifiable first step toward lessening the risk of nuclear war and reducing nuclear arsenals.

- Opponents and supporters of a nuclear freeze are engaged in intense debate around the country. Who is right? The best way to answer this question is to separate fact from fiction about a nuclear freeze. A good place to start this process is to examine the official position of the Reagan Administration as set forth in the Department of State pamphlet, "The Nuclear Freeze." Reagan officials allege five major drawbacks of a freeze proposal.

### Freezing Inferiority?

*Reagan Administration Allegation: "A freeze at existing levels would lock the United States and our allies into a position of military disadvantage and vulnerability."*

#### Fact:

- The United States and the U.S.S.R. today possess far more than enough nuclear warheads to destroy each other many times over. It does not matter who attacks first and who retaliates. Both sides will be destroyed.

- The U.S. can explode over 12,000 nuclear weapons on the Soviet Union; the Soviets can explode almost 8,000 nuclear weapons on the U.S.

- The U.S. has more total nuclear weapons, more strategic weapons, more nuclear weapons on submarines, and more nuclear weapons on bombers than the Soviet Union. U.S. weapons systems are generally more reliable and accurate than Soviet weapons systems.

- The Soviet Union has more nuclear weapons on land-based missiles (ICBMs) than the U.S. This one area of Soviet advantage is more than compensated for by the many areas of U.S. superiority.

- The Department of Defense Annual Report for fiscal 1982 concluded

*"The United States and the Soviet Union are roughly equal in strategic nuclear power."*

### Freeze Not Enough?

*Reagan Administration Allegation: "A freeze is not good enough."*

#### Fact:

- Of course, a freeze is not enough and no one maintains that it is. A freeze today of nuclear weapons in the U.S. and the Soviet Union would only be a first step toward subsequent reductions. The various freeze proposals at the state level and the freeze resolutions in the Congress all recognize the need to go beyond a cessation of building new nuclear weapons. But a nuclear freeze would be an extremely significant step, undoubtedly the most important action ever taken to control nuclear arms.

- President Reagan's program of

### Military Support for Freeze

*"As far as a freeze on nuclear weapons is concerned, their development, testing and so forth, I think that can be useful. I do not think it puts us in a relatively poorer position with respect to the Soviets. If you consider the total of the nuclear forces on both sides, I think we are pretty evenly matched."*

Admiral Noel Gayler (Ret.)  
Former Director, National Security Agency  
Before Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
May 12, 1982

building up more nuclear weapons before entering into any freeze agreement is an invitation to a wide open arms race. It is an open-ended proposal that does not offer anything as a constructive alternative to a bilateral, verifiable freeze now.

- The Reagan Administration's real commitment is to preparing to fight and win a nuclear war. The official budget document for fiscal 1983 proclaims: "U.S. defense policies ensure our preparedness to respond to and, if necessary, successfully fight either conventional or nuclear war."

- The two basic positions are not, as some accounts have portrayed it, first freeze and then reduce versus first reduce and then freeze. The Reagan Administration's desire is to engage in a massive nuclear weapons buildup. Possible reduction to a mutual level of 5000 weapons on 850 ICBMs and submarine-based missiles is an issue left to some uncertain future time. In other words, adding more nuclear weapons will somehow result in reducing them. This has appropriately been labeled "voodoo arms control." The Soviets will not sit idly by while the U.S. builds thousands of new weapons, since they clearly do not consider them-

selves ahead today. They will see this Reagan arms buildup as a drive for U.S. nuclear superiority and will respond in kind.

- While the proposal for quantitative reductions of nuclear weapons is attractive, it is not a solution to the danger of nuclear war in itself. Smaller numbers of highly accurate and more powerful new missiles will not contribute to U.S. defense. Even if the Soviets accept the Reagan proposal, the U.S. intends to build the MX and Trident II missiles. The U.S. would end up with 5000 first strike capable strategic weapons, each much more powerful than our present missiles. The Soviets could and would do likewise. A nuclear freeze is urgently required to stop these highly dangerous new weapons.

- The Reagan Administration proposes no reductions of any kind for U.S. tactical nuclear weapons. In fact, the U.S. proposes to build all of the new weapons (strategic and tactical) even if the Soviets agree to the U.S. proposals now being considered in the START and INF (intermediate nuclear forces) talks in Geneva. Far from "capping" numbers of nuclear weapons, the Reagan plans insure an increase in the danger of nuclear war.

### Undermining Arms Control?

*Reagan Administration Allegation: "A freeze would make significant arms control more difficult."*

#### Fact:

- A nuclear freeze is the most important arms control measure we could adopt. A freeze will control arms by:

1. Stopping testing;
2. Stopping production;
3. Stopping deployment of new nuclear weapons.

Failure to freeze means there will be no control of armaments. The best way to control arms is to stop building more arms.

- Control of nuclear arms by building more at a record rate as the Administration proposes is an insult to the intelligence of the American people.

- Control of arms must be mutual. If we increase our weapons the Soviets will match our actions. If we agree with the Soviets to stop testing, producing, and putting into operation new nuclear weapons, armaments will be controlled.

- A U.S.-Soviet freeze would greatly reduce the threat of nuclear proliferation. Many nations are now attempting to develop nuclear weapons. If the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. finally agree to negotiate a halt to new nuclear weapons, as they promised to do in the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty, they would then be in a strong position to cooperate in economic and political measures to enforce compliance with the Treaty. The U.S.-U.S.S.R. arms race



today makes a mockery of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

#### Conservative Support for Freeze

"A point was reached long ago at which both the United States and the Soviet Union had such monstrous arsenals that further accretions became senseless. These have been 37 years of lunacy, of idiots racing against imbeciles, of civilized nations staggering blindly toward a finish line of unspeakable peril.

"The immediate necessity is to call a truce, to stop the further buildup of nuclear weapons by either side."

James J. Kilpatrick  
*The Washington Post*  
April 13, 1982

#### Verifiable?

*Reagan Administration Allegation:* "A freeze on all testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons would include important elements that cannot be verified."

##### Fact:

- Both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. use a vast array of sophisticated and powerful intelligence gathering systems to survey each other regularly, thoroughly, and accurately. These systems include photo-reconnaissance satellites, radars, and other devices in space, on land, sea, and in the air which monitor all aspects of weapons testing and deployment. U.S. satellites reportedly can photograph objects 6 inches or less in diameter. The Soviet Union is surrounded by U.S. monitoring stations.

- Certainly, verification of testing of new nuclear weapons and weapons systems is practical. The U.S. has exploded 733 nuclear devices; the Soviets, 472. Verification of the deployment of new nuclear weapons is practical. The U.S. has precise information on the numbers of Soviet ICBMs, bombers, strategic submarines, and submarine-based missiles. Verification of the cessation of production of new nuclear weapons is more difficult but not out of the question. In negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test ban, the U.S., Britain, and the Soviet Union have already agreed in principle to significant measures of on-site inspection.

- Both civilian and military U.S. officials have repeatedly testified before Congress that the U.S. has the capability to adequately verify existing arms control treaties. There are 14 existing arms control treaties that the U.S. and the Soviet Union have signed. Neither country has believed that problems of compliance with any of these treaties has warranted abrogation.

- We will not know what can be achieved in verifying a nuclear freeze until our negotiators sit down with the Russians and start ironing out the specifics. In the absence of negotiations on a freeze, speculation about what is verifiable is just that: speculation. If both sides are serious about a freeze, a way can be found to insure verification.

- There will be many unverifiable and dangerous uncertainties resulting from future nuclear buildups in

### Can the Russians Cheat on a Nuclear Freeze?

"The purpose of verification is not the accumulation of legal evidence for a court of law. It is to protect our nation against Soviet forces and weaponry. If we protect our nation against the threat of another generation of Soviet nuclear weapons through a freeze, we would be substantially ahead even if the Soviets were to successfully cheat in a minute and marginal program. Any program which offered the prospect of a strategic advantage to the Soviets by definition would have to be of a size and consequent visibility that we could identify it long before it became a direct threat and take defensive action against it . . .

"For these reasons, it is my considered view that a 'mutual and verifiable freeze' on the development of additional nuclear weaponry by the Soviet Union or the United States would be feasible to negotiate. We do not have to, nor should we, 'trust' the Russians."

William E. Colby  
Former Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
May 13, 1982

"We monitor the activity at the [Soviet missile] design bureaus and production plants well enough that we have been able to predict every ICBM before it ever began its tests. . . . We have always in the past been able to detect an ICBM's existence before it ever went into tests."

Dr. William J. Perry  
Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering  
July 18, 1979

the U.S. and the Soviet Union if there is no nuclear freeze. Perfect verification of a freeze is neither achievable nor necessary. But it is necessary to weigh the dangers to America from an unlimited nuclear weapons race against the dangers of stopping U.S. and Soviet nuclear weapons expansion today. The choice of a nuclear freeze is an easy one to make in this context.

- As Dr. Herbert Scoville, former Deputy Director of the CIA, has stated, "A freeze would mean a stop to all activities in any weapons program, so that the detection of even one new missile or aircraft would be evidence of a violation. This simplifies the verification over that required for monitoring a ceiling. . . . Verification can no longer be legitimately used as an excuse for not proceeding with a freeze and reductions agreement."

#### Imperiling U.S. Leadership?

*Reagan Administration Allegation:* "A freeze would cast serious doubts on American leadership of the NATO alliance."

##### Fact:

- Every European leader has

strongly supported joint U.S.-Soviet steps to reduce nuclear arms, including the SALT II Treaty rejected by the Reagan Administration. Most European leaders have also expressed their concern about the danger of a nuclear weapons buildup. American leadership is more likely to be weakened by implementation of the Reagan plans than by a nuclear freeze.

- Widespread opposition in Europe to new nuclear weapons is not the result of anti-Americanism or Soviet pressure. Europeans want close alliance with the United States but they are alarmed by irresponsible statements about fighting and winning a nuclear war and attempts to coerce them into participating in unneeded nuclear weapons buildups. A U.S.-Soviet nuclear freeze will help to strengthen ties in NATO which are currently being strained by the policies of the Reagan Administration.

-From Defense Monitor, Copyright 1982, Center for Defense Information, 303 Capitol Gallery West, 600 Maryland Ave. SW, DC 20024

Duke University pharmacologist Daniel Menzel says he's found animals given large doses of vitamin E were able to stand three to ten times as much ozone and nitrous dioxide --two main components of smog. And a study of college students at the University of Southern California indicates the vitamin helped strengthen their lungs against pollution.

A Framingham, Massachusetts entrepreneur hopes to take the worry out of herpes by providing a herpes dating service. Says Brent Deck, owner and herpes sufferer, "The service is to help people with genital herpes meet other people with it on a confidential basis." So far only 40 people have signed up at \$75 a year or \$20 a date.







## CITY DESK Continued

tion. CCNV promises that the campaign will begin either on the first day of winter or in response to the first exposure death of a homeless person, whichever comes first. CCNV plans to erect 20 tents in Lafayette Park and 40 tents on the Mall to

dramatize the plight of the homeless.

For more than a decade, CCNV has been feeding, clothing, housing and providing medical care and pre-trial assistance to DC's homeless. Currently, it is providing food to up to 1500 people a day at two soup kitchens and a free food store. More information on its programs can be had by calling 667-6407.



## Roses & Thorns

**ROSES TO THE MAYOR'S RE-TRANSITION TEAM** which has recommended that the mayor have authority to commute prison sentences in order to reduce "dangerously overcrowded" prison conditions. This approach, which has been tried elsewhere, might encourage the city to look closer at who it has in jail, come up with alternative programs for those who shouldn't be there, and put the incarceration emphasis on those who are truly a threat to the community. Between 1978 and 1981, arrests for serious crimes increased by 34 percent but the number of persons in prison went up by 52 percent.

**ROSES TO THE CITY COUNCIL** for approving a bill providing for the handling of amendments to the statehood constitution. **THORNS TO THE CITY COUNCIL** for throwing in a provision that would have its proposed amendments take precedence over those of a reconvened constitutional convention if conflicting amendments come up. There is no reason why both amendments couldn't be placed on the ballot. The council, which has mismanaged the statehood business for some time, by this action merely rubbed more salt into old wounds. **ROSES TO HILDA MASON, WILHELMINA ROLARK and HILDA MASON** who opposed the provision.

**THORNS TO THE BARRY ADMINISTRATION** for keeping under wraps a consultant study critical of its efforts in economic development. Rudolph Pyatt of the Washington Post uncovered it.

**THORNS TO THE DC GOVERNMENT** for approving a law that prohibits school-age students from visiting game arcades during school hours. This little known law was brought to our attention when we heard of an arcade that was fined because two under-aged students were playing there during lunch hour. This is law is a waste of police time and an improper infringement on the freedom of youth. No wonder some kids get the idea that the law is absurd.

**THORNS TO COUNCILMEMBERS CRAWFORD, JARVIS, CLARKE, ROLARK, SPAULDING, WILSON, WINTER AND DIXON** for sponsoring legislation that would regulate the hours of soliciting gifts on Halloween. Come on, gang, get back to business. You've got far more important things to do.

**ROSES TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** who, angry at rising Metro costs, voted to start their own public transit system. This may well be the wave of the future as localities realize how much they were fooled by the Metroites.

**THORNS TO CONSULTANT HOWARD HOLCOMB** who actually suggested to officials at George Washington University that they should raise tuition, not because the school needs the money, but because it needs to cultivate an Ivy League image. Holcomb says George Washington is a "ranking world university, worth more than the tuition we were charging."

**ROSES TO WASHINGTON TIMES SCRIBE GLENN GARVIN** who wrote a fascinating expose of a marketing firm's technique for testing television commercials. The firm got people to drive up to Baltimore under the illusion that they would be previewing and judging television pilots. Turns out what the firm wanted to know was how effective the commercials were. Gleefully noted Garvin, "A Washington Post reporter attended one of the Baltimore screenings last August and wrote a glowing account of what it was like to evaluate television pilots, apparently without a clue as to the real purpose of the screening." Some of the unwitting lay participants were more perceptive. Watching outdated television pilots never again intended for network use, one audience member said: "When I watched the thing, I said to myself, 'Something's not quite right here.' First of all, the material seemed very dated ... the way people dressed, the way people talked. And the vast majority of the time was spent on showing commercials for various products."

Here's a cheerful convention center note: nationally, convention attendance is off 15 percent. There also seems to be a delegate arms race going on as well, as older convention cities, faced with competition from places like Washington, simply plan to enlarge their convention facilities. Isn't it fun?

Bob Moore, whatever his faults, was an immense improvement over Lorenzo Jacobs. There is little question but that housing problems generally have gotten more attention under the Barry administration than they did under the Washington one. The big flaw in his tenure was continued lack of attention to the problems of public housing. Now Robert Moore has quit the city government but remains under a consulting contract with it at precisely the same fee he was receiving in salary as a civil servant. This deal, which is raising eyebrows around town, is allegedly designed to permit Moore to finish up several major projects he started. At the very least, the arrangement raises questions of conflict-of-interest and, in any case, it does nothing to soften Marion Barry's image as a wheeler-dealer.

If you want to do something different for New Year's Eve, you might want to consider the DC-Baltimore Vegetarian Societies wing-ding in Baltimore. No smoking, no drinking, but plenty of dips and munchies plus cider, music and dancing. It'll be held At Christ Church, 1110 St. Paul St. Call 779-VEGE for info.

Look for Marjorie Parker to step down as chair of the UDC board shortly. She leaves the board itself in April. During her years on the board, UDC was created out of three separate institutions, a succession of controversial presidents came and went, there was a lot of argument and confusion, and in the midst of it all quite a few students got an education they otherwise couldn't have had afforded. In the early days, the typical student was older and many were working full or part-time. Now UDC has a more traditional student profile and, since the depression, has found a number of students transferring from other schools to the less-expensive UDC.

Parker sees several priorities for new UDC president Benjamin Alexander:

- Personnel relationships. "Every week or month it's another person suing. And, unfortunately, we seem to be losing a lot of the suits."

- "I hope Dr. Alexander will be able to receive the 100% support of the board." But she adds, "the split [on the board] is kind of institutionalized."

- The financial situation of the university. UDC students, she says, pay much less as a percentage of the budget than other similar institutions. Also there is no significant outside fund-raising.

The Bethune-Council House, once the home of Mary McLeod Bethune, opened last month as a national historic site. A major civil rights leader



in the thirties and forties, Bethune started the National Council of Negro Women. The house, at 1318 Vermont Ave NW, contains, among other things, the only archives in the United States devoted to black women's contributions to society. .... Meanwhile, planning and fund-raising is afoot for a National Museum of Women's Art, which is scheduled to open here in the next three to four years at 801 13th NW. The museum already has \$1.5 million in unconditional pledges and another \$1 million a year for four years coming from other donors, says museum founder Wilhelmina Holladay. Believed to be the first of its kind, the museum is designed, in Holladay's words, not to show that women artists are "lesser or greater, but that they are — they exist."

The handicapped lobby, faced with a federal retreat on legislation mandating education for handicapped children, is pushing for local legislation to fill any gaps. Introduction of the legislation is expected in January. Meanwhile, revisions to rules on educating the handicapped remain bogged down in the Board of Education.

The city, having failed to attract any interest for its proposed multi-use self-funding approach to building a UDC downtown campus, told developers last month to come up with their own ideas. DC officials eliminated many technical requirements from their original proposal and have left open the possibility of some help from UDC in boosting cash flow in the early stages of the development.

One of the problems UDC faces with its plan is that the DC government has created so many land boondoggles for developers that the UDC proposal didn't seem all that attractive. Providing developers with "incentives creates the same problem as blackmail. Once you agree to it, they keep coming back for more."

The Warner Theatre, the Masonic Temple and the C&P phone company building on 12th St. are up for landmark status. The applications were submitted by Don't Tear It Down.

Marion Barry has proposed changing the current four-tier rate structure for car registration (based on weight) to a two-tier structure. City officials say the price of fuel and general cost of living provide enough incentive for people to buy smaller, more fuel-efficient cars and that the four-tier system is no longer necessary. Somehow in the change, however, the city government will net an extra \$3 million a year.

The private amendment introduced in Congress on behalf of Abe Pollin, which would restrict the nature of functions at the convention center, is more a political threat to the city than an economic one. In fact, the convention center is not designed for sporting events or even regular entertainment. Its largest hall has floors that can't accommodate sports activities and will only hold 7000-8000 people.

Nonetheless, few things Congress has done to the city in the recent past has been as outrageous as this

little scam. These is absolutely no federal interest or principle (even a wrong one) involved. What the amendment's backers propose is to put the interests of one politically powerful businessman ahead of those of this whole colony. Nothing more dramatically shows where the values of some members of Congress are and why the cause of statehood, no matter how difficult, must continue to be pressed.

Speaking of the convention dispute, Hizoner said "I'm opposed to any language in any bill that takes rights away from us. On the other hand, I'm a practical realist. . ." Jon Rowe, noting this comment, asks, "Has the press slighted our mayor by comparing him to Richard Daley? Is the more apt comparison to John Dewey? Heidegger? All this time we thought he was cutting deals with the Oliver Carr crowd, have they really been debating the relevance of the theory of the unreal imperative to structural aluminum and plate glass?"

A Washington firm, Denning Systems, is developing a security guard robot. He's three feet tall, weighs 200 pounds and can detect people through walls and pick up the sound of breaking glass. It's also equipped with loud sirens and radio links to summon police in case of a break-in. The \$25,000 creature, however, does have some limitations such as not being able to climb stairs or distinguish between an intruder and an early-arriving employee.

One of the better local stories of recent weeks was Mike Davis's expose of the questionable dealings surrounding the disposition of the Dupont Circle trolley tunnels. Writing in the Washington Times, Davis reported that a city advisory panel had recommended that a lucrative contract for the development of the tunnel be awarded to Dupont Recreation Corporation, a company whose secretary-director is banker Bill Fitzgerald, buddy of the mayor and his wife, and president of Independence Savings and Loan on whose board sits Effi Barry and in whose loan portfolio you'll find the Barry house. The panel rejected two other bids that would have provided considerably more money for the city.

Just as the Post used to do when the Star scooped it, the 15th Street gang steadfastly refused to recognize the existence of the story for days until the issue got too hot. Even then, the Post made no mention of the Times' having brought the matter to the fore while there was still time to do something about. Petty, petty.

A more expected scam by the Times was its detailed report of the notorious Nixon party last month. While the rest of the press had to content itself with a distant glance of the affair, the Times man was apparently welcomed inside the hall and thus was able to provide us with such significance as Nixon's comments on advancement. At one point Nixon said "You've lied your way around the

## Notes from the ACLU

One thing was clear this summer: the nearer an election, the more cavalier the attitude of some elected officials toward the Bill of Rights.

In a rare show of unity, local elected officials joined forces with law and order Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY), Chair of the Senate D.C. Appropriations Subcommittee, to amend the District's already harsh preventive detention law.

The measure, which monopolized media attention for much of July, expands the period of pretrial detention to 90 days and permits unlimited detention of alleged murderers, without any due process hearing.

To assure that prosecutors make use of the new law, D'Amato sweetened the pot by promising funds for 30 additional U.S. attorneys.

The ACLU, long a foe of preventive detention, sharply denounced the D.C. City Council action as both unconstitutional and wrongheaded. As ACLU Executive Director Leslie Harris explained, "To the extent that serious pretrial crime is a real problem in the District, it is committed by a few offenders six to eight months after their initial release while they are still awaiting trial. Speedy trials would do more to deal with pretrial crime than any further change in the bail law."

The District was excluded from the provisions of the federal Speedy Trial Act of 1975 because local court reorganization was just getting under way. It now takes an average offender in the District 224 days to go to trial.

In a friend of the court brief filed with the federal court of appeals, ACLU-NCA urged the adoption of a new legal standard prohibiting the imposition of punitive damages in libel cases.

There are two kinds of damages: compensatory and punitive. The purpose of compensatory damages is to compensate the plaintiff for the harm he or she has suffered (for example, in a libel case, the harm to reputation or employment).

The purpose of punitive damages, as the name indicates, is to punish the defendant for his wrongdoing, and, by example, to deter others from engaging in similar conduct.

ACLU's brief argued that punitive damages have no place in libel cases because they too severely chill the exercise of free speech. While it may be appropriate to compel writers and publishers to repay the damages they have done by publishing false articles, the possibility of unlimited and potentially ruinous punitive damages will cause many to shy away from printing any item they cannot positively prove to be accurate. Many legitimate and valuable news stories and commentaries are not backed with such a high degree of certainty.

Alternatively, ACLU argued, any award of punitive damages should be strictly supervised by the courts, and permitted only upon a showing of truly blameworthy conduct by the defendant.

### ATTN: MAYDAY ARRESTEES

We are now in the process of refunding the bail money paid by thousands of people arrested in the Mayday demonstration of 1971. If you were arrested then, and paid bail or a fine that has not been previously refunded to you, write us (do not call) at 600 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Suite 301, Washington, D.C. 20003 giving your correct address (and if it's now different, your name as it was in 1971).

-From the newsletter of the local ACLU chapter.